

Bombs kill 2 Israelis, injure 7

TEL AVIV (R) — Roadside bombs killed two Israeli soldiers Monday and wounded another seven as well as four Lebanese villagers northeast of the South Lebanon coastal town of Tyre, the Israeli army said. The first bomb killed two soldiers and wounded two, one seriously. A second bomb two hours later 10 metres away, wounded five soldiers and four Lebanese, an army spokesman said. The explosions, near the village of Arzay where Israeli soldiers have often come under attack, brought the officially announced number of Israeli troops killed in South Lebanon to 607 since Israel invaded Lebanon in June 1982.

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Anani, Swedish minister hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani held a meeting Monday with Swedish Minister of Foreign Trade Mats Hellbom, who is currently on an official visit to Jordan. Dr. Anani and Mr. Hellbom reviewed cooperation between the two countries and Jordan's interest in establishing joint projects in the field of therapeutic tourism in Amman. At the meeting Dr. Anani briefed the Swedish minister on development projects in Jordan in the coming five-year development plan, and means of marketing Jordanian products in Sweden.

Islamic delegation arrives in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-member delegation led by Dr. M.A. Kazi, adviser to Pakistan President Zia Ul Haq on science and technology, and including Dr. Ali Kettani, director general, Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development and Dr. Sadiq Ibn Juma, former minister for transport in the government of Tunisia arrived in Amman Monday. The visit is part of the delegation's current tour of various countries including Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Libya and is in pursuance of the action plan of the OIC ministerial standing committee on science and technology approved by the fourth Islamic summit meeting held at Casablanca in January 1984. During its stay in Amman, the delegation is expected to call on His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent. The delegation would also hold talks with senior Jordanian officials.

Settlers open fire on Jenin villagers

AMMAN (Petra) — Jewish settlers near Jenin in the occupied West Bank opened fire on villagers in Iraq village near Jenin, injuring one, Israel Radio said Monday. The villagers apparently clashed with Jewish settlers who attempted to confiscate livestock belonging to Arab citizens, the radio said.

Urquhart arrives in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — United Nations Under-Secretary Brian Urquhart arrived in Israel Monday as the Israeli cabinet met to vote on a plan for troop withdrawal from Lebanon. Mr. Urquhart, who was met by Israeli Foreign Ministry and U.N. officials, told reporters he had "come to see what the U.N. could do about Lebanon."

Warsaw Pact summit postponed

MOSCOW (R) — A Warsaw Pact summit meeting scheduled for this week has been postponed indefinitely, according to an official announcement published in a Soviet newspaper. An editorial spokesman for the daily Sovetskaya Rossiya read the text of the brief announcement, which said the decision was taken by mutual agreement of the pact members.

INSIDE

- Polisario claims 2 Moroccan jets shot down, page 2
- Eight municipal employees sentenced for embezzlement, misuse of position, page 3
- Temperature frigid but arms climate warming, page 4
- Africans bear the brunt of global recession, page 5
- McEnroe retains Masters crown, page 6
- London hikes interest rates again to boost sterling, page 7
- Kampuchean rebels, Vietnamese clash on two Thai border points, page 8

Hussein seeks joint Arab stand on Mideast King arrives in Oman after talks in Qatar

MUSCAT (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived in Oman Monday on the last stage of a Gulf tour apparently to seek support for an urgent meeting of Arab foreign ministers to pave the way for a long-postponed Arab summit.

King Hussein was met at Muscat airport by Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id of Oman and senior cabinet ministers. Officials said official talks would start Tuesday. The King, who held talks in Kuwait and Bahrain Sunday, flew in from Doha where he said his current talks were aimed at reaching a joint approach to problems in the Middle East. Qatari officials said the King's talks with the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani, covered the situation in the Gulf and the Arab World in general. Speaking on arrival in Doha from Bahrain, the King told Omani radio he hoped Arab leaders would meet to tackle "all the difficult problems before them."

2 French observers shot dead in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Gunmen shot dead two French ceasefire observers Monday in Beirut's southern suburbs, security sources said. The two observers were on patrol in the mainly Shiite Muslim suburb of Burj Al Barajneh, close to the western side of Beirut's "green line," when they came under fire, the sources, quoted by Reuters, said. The broadcasts of the "Voice of Lebanon" and "Voice of Free Lebanon" radio stations said the victims of the 10:45 a.m. (0845 GMT) ambush were a captain and a corporal whose bodies were taken to the American University of Beirut (AUB) hospital in west Beirut. A spokesman at the headquarters of the 168-man observer force, known as "Casques Bleues" for their white helmets, confirmed the deaths. But he refused to give any details. A Lebanese army source, who spoke to the Associated Press on condition he would not be named, said at least two assailants raked the French jeep with AK-47 assault rifles from the windows of a white Peugeot and sped away. The source as well as state and privately owned Beirut radio stations said the attack occurred at a road intersection linking three residential neighbourhoods in Burj Al-Barajneh. In Paris, the French External Relations Ministry said it was "deeply shocked" by the killing of the two French ceasefire observers in Beirut. The deaths brought to four the number of French observers killed since the 68-man force was stationed in Beirut last April to monitor a truce between Lebanon's feuding militias and around Beirut.

The observer force moved in when the French contingent of a now-defunct multinational force left the city last March. An anonymous phone caller to news agencies claimed responsibility for the killing of the two French officers on behalf of the shadowy "Islamic Jihad" group, which has said it was behind numerous attacks on U.S., French and other soldiers and institutions in Lebanon and elsewhere in the Middle East. The anonymous caller said: "The two French spies were liquidated this morning after they were caught re-handled spying on our youths and positions in the Islamic suburb as part of their mission to monitor the movements of our youths and report to Atlantic, Israeli and Falangist intelligence."

American observers will also

be facing the Arab World. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said the King held three hours of talks with Sheikh Khalifa. The emir of Qatar affirmed his country's all-out support for any effort aimed at realigning the Arab ranks in the service of the Arab causes, and both sides affirmed keenness for collective Arab action, the Qatari News Agency said. The King, who was accompanied by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Zaid, was accorded state welcome and farewell ceremonies attended by Sheikh Khalifa and senior Qatari leaders, Petra said. In Muscat, Sultan Qaboos and senior Omani officials received the King, who was accorded a grand welcome ceremony and 21-gun salute. The King's current tour follows

Israeli cabinet okays 3-stage pullout plan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's cabinet approved a plan for a three-stage withdrawal from Lebanon on Monday and decided the pullback would begin "in a short time," said a cabinet minister emerging from the meeting. Amnon Rubinstein, the communications minister, said the vote was 16-6 in favour of the plan presented by Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and top army officers. The plan was supported by Prime Minister Shimon Peres of the Labour coalition. Eight of the 10 Likud ministers voted in favour of the withdrawal plan. The June 6, 1982 invasion into Lebanon was launched while the right-wing Likud bloc led the government. A few "stylistic changes" were made in the wording of the cabinet resolution, said Mr. Rubinstein, who declined to elaborate. Approval came after an 11-hour debate stretched over two

Egypt, Israel put off Taba talks for 2 weeks

TEL AVIV (R) — Planned talks between Israel and Egypt on the disputed border strip of Taba, which Israel wanted to hold this week, are now expected to take place at the end of the month, an Israeli foreign ministry spokesman said Monday. He said Cairo had not officially accepted this week as the time for the talks and had now suggested the last week of January. Israel was expected to accept the date, he added. The two sides have agreed that the talks will be held first in an Israeli desert town of Beersheba and then in the Suez Canal city of Ismailia, in rotation. The subject of the negotiations will be limited to the deployment of an international peacekeeping force in the disputed Red Sea coastal strip currently occupied by Israel. The force will be taken from the 10-nation Multi-national Force of Observers (MFO), which is stationed in the Sinai desert to monitor Egyptian and Israeli compliance with their 1979 treaty under which the desert was returned to Egypt. The spokesman said the delegations at the talks would be headed by Foreign Ministry officials from both countries. Zvi Kedari, assistant director-general for Middle Eastern affairs will represent Israel and Assistant Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Badawi will head the Egyptian side.

take part in the meeting due to an Egyptian request, the spokesman said. Taba, a 700-metre strip with a five-star hotel and a beach club, is currently in Israeli hands but Egypt considers it part of the Egyptian Sinai desert. Sovereignty over Taba, along with a number of other border points, was left open by the 1979 treaty. The Egyptian newspaper Mayo quoted Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid as saying Monday the Taba issue was an "essential part of the Egyptian national conscience and Egypt will not sell it out."

a visit he made to Saudi Arabia, which was to host the much-delayed Arab summit. The summit was originally scheduled to be held in Riyadh in November 1983. Various Arab differences, particularly those between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), have impeded the summit. Jordan is also pressing for the return of Egypt to the Arab ranks. Egypt was expelled from the Arab League after its 1979 treaty with Israel, and only Jordan restored the ties with Cairo last September. Oman, along with Sudan and Somalia, did not break ties with Egypt. The Arab Gulf states have said they will restore the ties only after a decision at a pan-Arab summit. Syria, backed by Libya, has meanwhile affirmed its objection to the convening of the long-delayed summit at this stage. King Hussein's drive for a pan-Arab collective action started Jan. 1 with his visit to Saudi Arabia. He returned to Amman for more talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and other international contacts on the Palestinian problem, before resuming his Gulf tour.

days. The plan would see Israeli troops retreat 20 to 30 kilometres, according to Israeli military correspondents. Mr. Rabin said the first stage of the withdrawal would be completed in five weeks. He said the United Nations and Lebanon would be supplied with full details of Israeli army movements to assure an "orderly evacuation" and avoid any "hostile action." The government would have to approve each of the next two pullbacks although the final objective was to leave Lebanon completely, Mr. Rabin declared. Those ministers who voted against the move included Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and minister without portfolio Moshe Arens, a former defence minister. All six "no" votes came from members of the right-wing Likud party, which led the government when the invasion of Lebanon was ordered in 1982.

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Mr. Abdul Meguid was also quoted as saying that Egypt, though it signed the 1979 U.S.-sponsored Camp David treaty with Israel, remains to be an Arab state with natural relations with the Arab World. The foreign minister also welcomed moves by any Arab state to resume diplomatic relations with Cairo. Most Arab countries severed diplomatic relations with Egypt following the 1979 Camp David separate peace treaty with Israel. Jordan resumed the relations last September. In his statement to Mayo, Mr. Abdul Meguid also emphasised his country's full support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and its role in any effort to find a settlement to the Middle East conflict.



TALKS IN BAHRAIN: His Majesty King Hussein, who paid a one-day visit to Bahrain Sunday accompanied by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker (left), holds talks with the emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa (Petra photo)

Iraq reports 11th 'target' hit in Gulf this year

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Monday its jet fighters raided an unidentified ship near Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal in the Gulf waters. An Iraqi military spokesman said the raid took place at 1705 hours (1405 GMT) near Kharg, which is 230 kilometres south of the Iraqi coast. The Iraqi spokesman said that "our eagles (air force pilots) scored direct and effective hits on a large naval target and returned safely to base." The Baghdad radio brought to 11 the total number of ships reportedly raided by the Iraqis in the Gulf since Jan. 1. According to records kept by the London-based Lloyds shipping intelligence unit, more than 65 commercial vessels have been crippled by both Iraq and Iran in the Gulf waters since January last year. In a day of increased air activity in the 51-month-old war, the national Iranian news agency IRNA said an Iraqi plane was shot down in a dogfight over the Gulf. IRNA was quoting a military statement, issued in Tehran, minutes after the military spokesman in Baghdad reported the attack on ship near Kharg. The Iraqi spokesman, reading the communiqué over the state radio, said the "eagles are always waiting to hunt any naval target that tries to sail across the military operations zone to Iranian ports."

Iraq in the course of the 51-month-old war with Iran has repeatedly warned international shipping companies to cease sending their vessels to Iran or risk air and sea attacks by Iraqi warplanes and navy units. The latest attack comes amid reports from Baghdad and, Tehran that Iranian troops may be preparing to launch a major ground offensive, possibly across the southern-central sector. Iraq said recently its jets had flown hundreds of sorties against Iranian troop concentrations in the area. Last Friday, the spokesman for Iran's inner war cabinet, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, said his country had plans to attack Iraq, but it was waiting for the best moment. Diplomats in Tehran believe up to 500,000 Iranian troops may have been massed for a fresh offensive, though an attack was unlikely during the current winter.

Brigadier Abdul Aziz Ghanem, in an interview with the armed forces magazine Humat Al Waian, also said that the Kuwaiti army sent military personnel to the Soviet Union and Egypt to train on these anti-aircraft missiles. As a result, a SAM-8 battalion was formed by the Kuwaiti air force and its cadres sent to the Soviet Union for relevant training, he said. Kuwaiti soldiers were training on the SAM-7 and Strella-2 in Egypt, while the Strella-3 cadres would be trained in Kuwait, he said. He did not mention who would train the Kuwaitis inside the country, but Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sahah recently said that about 10 Soviet military experts were in Kuwait to initiate Kuwaiti personnel in the use of weapons acquired from the Soviet Union. Last September Sheikh Salim was on a visit to Moscow where he reportedly signed a \$327-million arms deal covering supply of air

Abu Qoura calls for action against chemical arms

By Rana Sabbagh
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura, president of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), Monday urged the international community to abide by the Geneva Conventions on the non-usage of chemical weapons during armed conflicts and called for an international ban on such weapons. In a press conference he held after chairing a closed urgent meeting of the standing committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and Red Crescent, Dr. Abu Qoura called for measures to ban the testing and storing of chemical weapons in any part of the world, "because such weapons violate the basic regulations laid down by the Geneva Conventions and humanitarian organisations." Dr. Abu Qoura said he will send urgent messages to various international organisations dealing with humanitarian issues to launch efforts to totally ban chemical weapons. The messages will be signed by ICRC President Alexander Hay, Hendrik Dolma, president of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and himself, Dr. Abu Qoura said. Dr. Abu Qoura recalled that the Geneva Conventions which drew up the international humanitarian law provide for the protection of war invalids and injured, treatment of prisoners of war and safety of civilians during armed conflicts. Despite agreement to the Geneva Conventions, many world nations are violating the regulations, the JNRCS president said. He called for stringent monitoring of these regulations by the international community. During Monday's urgent meeting "we have tried to analyse the reasons behind violations of the Geneva Conventions," he said. "We also reviewed the various measures and recommendations adopted in earlier conferences and decided to send letters to all governments and urge them to adhere to the Manila resolutions of 1981 which call for respecting human laws and principles, and the peace conference in Finland last September." Dr. Abu Qoura said that the main reason for issuing the letters is that armed conflicts are spreading in the world. He said: "Humanitarian organisations do not have any remarkable executive power. Instead, they have moral power by which they abide, while a number of governments that have signed the conventions do not abide by them." Dr. Abu Qoura urged the information media to support this campaign in order to make "the states ready to accept, respect and apply the international humanitarian law."

Kuwait confirms acquiring SAMs

KUWAIT (AP) — The Kuwaiti air force commander disclosed Monday that his country has received from the Soviet Union advanced ground-to-air missiles — SAM-7, SAM-8, Strella-2 and Strella-3 — instead of the U.S. "Stinger" missiles that the administration of President Ronald Reagan declined to supply. Brigadier Abdul Aziz Ghanem, in an interview with the armed forces magazine Humat Al Waian, also said that the Kuwaiti army sent military personnel to the Soviet Union and Egypt to train on these anti-aircraft missiles. As a result, a SAM-8 battalion was formed by the Kuwaiti air

Gromyko space arms warning does not doom talks, Shultz says

LONDON (Agencies) — The Soviet Union Sunday made clear it would not agree to limit nuclear arms if the U.S. blocked a ban on weapons in space, but Washington said this did not doom prospects for success in new superpower negotiations. Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, speaking on television in Moscow, also warned that if NATO continued deploying medium-range missiles in Europe, begun in 1983 to counter Soviet rockets, it would jeopardise the new talks. Mr. Gromyko was giving details, in a 110-minute television interview, of Moscow's position on arms talks following his two days of talks in Geneva last week with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The two sides agreed in Geneva to embark on new three-part talks, expected to begin in six to eight weeks, covering strategic and medium-range missiles and space weapons. "If no progress is made on questions of space it would be superfluous to talk about the possibility of reducing strategic armaments," Mr. Gromyko said. Commenting in Washington on Mr. Gromyko's remarks, Mr. Shultz ruled out any delay in deploying U.S.-built cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Europe, saying that Mr. Gromyko "knows we intend to carry out our decisions on deployment."

But Mr. Shultz, speaking on television, said that Mr. Gromyko's comments on space weapons "certainly don't doom any chance (of successful talks)."

Moscow insists that Washington abandon its controversial research programme, known as the strategic defence initiative or "Star Wars", aimed at developing a space-based defensive shield against missiles. The Soviet Union has long stressed the relationship between "Star Wars" and limiting nuclear weapons. "I think the fact that there is a relationship is something we believe, and the Soviet Union does too," Mr. Shultz said.

U.S. denies agreement with Soviets for Mideast dialogue

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States had no plans to bring the Soviet Union into the Middle East peace process, the White House said Monday. "There were no discussions in Geneva about separate talks between the United States and the Soviet Union on the Middle East," Spokesman Larry Speakes said. The New York Times reported Monday that the Reagan administration has told Israel and Egypt that the U.S. and Soviet Union have agreed to hold talks on the Middle East. The newspaper quoted unnamed diplomatic sources as saying that U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Mark Palmer delivered the message after U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko reached an agreement during talks last week in Geneva. The New York Times report followed another by the Israeli daily Haaretz Sunday that the U.S. and Soviet Union have reached such an agreement and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy was to represent the U.S. in the dialogue, the venue and date of which had not been fixed yet. Haaretz also said that Israel, which, along with the U.S., has rejected a proposal by the United Nations for an international conference on the Middle East, did not raise any objections to the U.S.-Soviet agreement. The Soviet Union has repeatedly proposed an international conference to settle Middle East issues but the United States and Israel have said such a session would be useless. Mr. Speakes said Monday the United States regularly addressed regional problems with the Soviet Union through diplomatic and other channels. Asked if the Reagan administration planned to bring the Soviet Union into the Middle East peace process, he replied: "No." Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and most Arab states have welcomed the Soviet call for an international conference. King Hussein has also said that a rapprochement between Washington and Moscow was one of the few hopes left to improve chances for a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Polisario guerrillas shoot down 2 Moroccan planes

PARIS (R) — Guerrillas fighting for the independence of Western Sahara shot down two Moroccan aircraft over the disputed desert territory Sunday, killing both pilots, the Algerian News Agency APS reported Monday.

APS quoted a communique issued by the Polisario guerrillas as saying their anti-aircraft batteries brought down the aircraft near the coastal town of Dakhla, formerly Villa Cisneros, in the southern part of the territory. It did not identify the type of planes involved.

The communique said the Moroccan Air Force had been carrying out "systematic bombing with fragmentation bombs" in the area.

On Saturday the Polisario, which has been fighting Morocco for the independence of the Western Sahara for more than eight

years, said it had shot down a Moroccan Mirage fighter-bomber during violent fighting around Mahbes in the north of the territory near the Algerian border.

The communique said Morocco was preparing to use U.S.-built F-20 fighters in the conflict.

In Saturday's communique the Polisario said it had shot down a Moroccan Mirage F-1 fighter-bomber and a French helicopter. It also said it had shot down a Moroccan OV-10 anti-insurgency plane, a C-130 Hercules troop transport and a helicopter.

Ministry confirmed there had been fierce fighting in the Western Sahara on Saturday when Moroccan troops building a new line of defences were attacked by guerrillas equipped with armour.

It said in a communique that the guerrillas had retreated into Algerian territory after taking heavy losses. It said casualty figures would be published later.

It is the first time for about two years that the Polisario has reported shooting down Moroccan aircraft.

The Moroccan Air Force has French-built Mirage F-1 fighter-bombers and French helicopters and American-built F-5 fighters, OV-10 anti-insurgency planes, C-130 Hercules troop transports and helicopters.



SALEM'S SINKING — Antonios Kalomiropoulos, first engineer of the tanker "Salem", standing in dark suit, replies to a question from a Greek judge during a trial of 12 of the crew members. According to the indictment, they illegally sold a cargo of oil to South Africa and then sank the ship to collect insurance (AP wirephoto)

Ethiopia will send food, livestock to Egypt

LONDON (AP) — Famine-stricken Ethiopia agreed Sunday to export food to Egypt. Addis Ababa Radio reported.

The broadcast, monitored in London, said that under a one-year trade cooperation agreement, Ethiopia will send to Egypt livestock, meat and farm products in return for Egyptian metals, fertilisers, medicine and construction materials.

Additionally, the two countries

agreed to jointly produce farm products to meet the needs of their respective countries, the radio said.

The agreement was signed Sunday by Ethiopia's External Trade Minister, Wole Chekol, and by Egyptian Economy and Trade Minister, Mustafa Al Said.

The Egyptian delegation was left for home after a five-day working visit, the radio said.

Turkey seizes 34 Kurds

ANKARA (R) — Turkish security forces rounded up 34 members of a Kurdish underground group active in and around Ankara in the last two months, police said Monday. Seven Kalashnikov rifles, two pistols, an automatic rifle and a quantity of ammunition were seized in searches of the mil-

itants' houses, they said. Those detained are charged with membership of the illegal Kurdistan Workers' Party (KOP) and involvement in armed activities in November and December last year which were directed against the constitutional order. It gave no details.

Police hunt killers of Libyan diplomat

ROME (R) — Italian police Monday sought the killers of a young Libyan diplomat shot dead in Rome a year after Libya's ambassador was killed in a similar attack.

Imrag Omar Makhyoun, 31, was shot three times Sunday near his apartment while on his way to the Libyan People's Bureau, where he had recently been appointed chief of the information office.

In London, a Libyan dissident group claiming responsibility for the killing of Ambassador Ammar Al Taggari, who was shot in Rome in June 21 and died in hospital three weeks later.

Libya blamed Makhyoun's killing on groups loyal to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Lebanese Shiite Muslim leader Nabih Berri.

Police piecing together the details of the killing said that a witness reported seeing two men running away as Makhyoun staggered and fell dead on the key pavement. He had drawn his own pistol and fired two shots at his assassins.

Makhyoun's wife told investigators her husband carried a gun because he had received anonymous telephoned death threats recently.

The father of three children, he assumed his embassy post several months ago and was previously cultural attaché, an embassy spokesman said.

He was shot three times at close range in the neck, thorax and abdomen.

The group claimed last year that it killed Libyan Ambassador Ammar Al Taggari, who was shot in Rome in June 21 and died in hospital three weeks later.

Libya blamed Makhyoun's killing on groups loyal to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Lebanese Shiite Muslim leader Nabih Berri.

Residents fear effects of Israeli withdrawal

KIRYAT SHMONA (R) — Nostalgia is the Israeli government's debate on a unilateral pullback of its troops from Lebanon more closely followed than in this northern border settlement.

Residents fear Palestinian commandos will fire artillery and rockets at it as soon as the army moves south.

"Kiryat Shmona became a symbol for the terrorists," said Mayor Prof. Yehonatan. "The government also made it a symbol, and the first chance they have, the guerrillas will try to hit Kiryat Shmona to show we did not succeed in wiping them out."

Residents and press reports say scores of people have already sold their apartments and bought accommodation in the south, as many did in 1981 when Israeli and commando forces traded fire daily.

Israel's coalition government started debate Saturday on a plan for a three-phase withdrawal lasting eight to 10 months and allowing for the army to evaluate the effect of each stage.

Israel invaded Lebanon in June, 1982 with former Prime Minister Menachem Begin promising "no more Katyusha rockets on Kiryat Shmona."

But Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin says he cannot guarantee no rockets will hit the picturesque settlement north of Israel.

Israel's northern military commander earlier this month instructed residents to prepare the town's bomb shelters.

City officials, psychologists and social workers have started preparing residents for renewed shelling. The municipality has refurbished bomb shelters, usually equipped with mattresses but without toilets or water.

"We know we don't have to wait a long time," Mr. Azran said. "A citizen who doesn't know he has a home underground has the potential for getting on a bus and leaving here."

Jury to start deliberating in Sharon libel suit

NEW YORK (R) — A jury of four women and two men were expected to start deliberations Monday on whether former Israeli defence chief Ariel Sharon was libelled by Time magazine in a story about a 1982 massacre in Beirut.

The jurors have heard two months of testimony on Mr. Sharon's claim that Time portrayed him as instigator of the slaughter at Sabra and Shatila, two Palestinian refugee camps.

Before the deliberations start, the jury will hear final legal instructions from Judge Abraham Sofaer, who as late as last week had an unsuccessful bid to settle the case out of court.

His draft of a retraction by the magazine was rejected by Mr. Sharon after it was "emasculated" by Time representatives, a spokesman for the ex-defence minister said.

Mr. Sharon, who claimed moral victory in the \$50 million libel suit after part of Time's defence case, was still demanding full retraction and an apology at week's end, leading to speculation the suit might be settled.

But a Sharon spokesman told Reuters Sunday that "absolutely nothing" happened over the weekend.

The jurors were expected to concentrate on whether Time acted with malice or reckless disregard for the truth, the test of libel in the United States. Proving falsity and defamation is not enough.

The burden of proof rests with the plaintiff.

Studies have shown that about 60 per cent of U.S. libel jury verdicts have sided with the plaintiff, with the majority of them later overturned on appeal.

If Judge Sofaer is not satisfied with the verdict, an appeal is almost certain.

Kyprianou may help rebuild Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Spyros Kyprianou was widely regarded as a stop-gap president of Cyprus when he assumed the office left vacant by the towering, charismatic Archbishop Makarios who died in August 1977.

Eight years later, however, he is still firmly in command, and on Thursday in New York he will meet Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş in the hope of reuniting the divided nation.

Mr. Kyprianou, 52, his world headlines in December 1977 when his son Achilles was kidnapped by remnants of the Eoka-B terrorist group demanding the release of some comrades jailed for their part in an abortive coup against Makarios.

"I am ready to sacrifice my son, but not my country," Mr. Kyprianou declared on television with wife Mimi and their other son by his side. Achilles was freed unharm-

The Kyprianou and their sons had a thunderous reception at a massive, spontaneous rally in Nicosia's Liberty Square.

Political opponents withdrew from the 1978 presidential elections and Mr. Kyprianou was elected by acclamation. He won a further five-year term in 1983, securing 57 per cent of the vote.

Mr. Kyprianou was born in the port town of Limassol on October 28, 1932, and was educated there before going to London to study economics.

He qualified as a lawyer in 1954 and was awarded a post-graduate diploma in comparative law.

While in London, he founded the Cypriot Students' Union in England (EFCUK) and took up politics as Archbishop Makarios's personal representative in Britain.

In Cyprus, the struggle for Enosis (Union with Greece) against British rule had just begun and Mr. Kyprianou campaigned to explain the Cypriot cause to the British people.

Eoka guerrillas began a violent independence struggle in Cyprus in 1955 and a year later Mr. Kyprianou was expelled from Britain. He went to Athens to work for the Pan-Hellenic Committee for Self-Determination in Cyprus.

The committee sent him to fight the Cypriot case in the United Nations and at the U.S. State Department. When Cyprus won independence in 1960, Mr. Kyprianou became its first foreign minister at just 28.

Reserved and small in stature, he lived very much in the shadow of Makarios, who virtually personified the new state.

Yet Mr. Kyprianou's defence of democracy attracted the attention of the Greek military junta which came to power in 1967.

He was still a private citizen when a junta-inspired abortive coup against Makarios in 1974 led Turkey to invade and occupy the northern third of the island, forcing the division of Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

In 1976, he founded the centre-right Democratic Party, which won 21 seats in elections that year for the 50-seat Cypriot Parliament. He was elected house president. Fifteen seats reserved for Turkish-Cypriots have been unoccupied since 1963.

Asked why this month's talks should be any more effective, Mr. Kyprianou told Reuters: "This meeting will try to reach definite results which will constitute a framework for a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem."

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Denktash seeks equality in a federal Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş, who meets Greek Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou on Thursday in a fresh effort to unite the divided island, has fought doggedly for equality for his minority community.

Having campaigned since the 1960s against any suggestion that Cyprus might be a Greek island, Mr. Denktaş has fought hard to ensure that the path to a proposed bi-communal federal republic is an easy one.

"It cannot be expected for two peoples who lived separately for many years to come together and forget the past and everything within a day," he said in a new year message.

Mr. Denktaş, the son of a judge, first declared his aims in October 1963. "I take an oath that the Turkish Cypriot community will never become a minority, nor will the island ever become Greek," he said in a speech.

Turkey invaded Cyprus and took the northern third of the island in 1974. Some 200,000 Greek

Cypriot refugees fled from the occupied areas and the scattered community of 120,000 Turkish Cypriots moved north to be concentrated into the "Turkish federated state" which Denktaş proclaimed in 1975.

Eight years later, frustrated by fruitless negotiations and angered by growing international support for the legal Greek Cypriot-run government, he declared "the north independent to the face of world opinion."

At a key meeting in 1977 with the late president, Archbishop Makarios, the principle of a federal republic had been accepted. This was expanded into a 10-point agreement when he met President Spyros Kyprianou in 1979.

Despite the 1983 creation of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus," recognised only by Turkey, Mr. Denktaş maintained that his real aim was to federate with the Greek Cypriot south.

Born on Jan. 27, 1924 in the west of Cyprus, Mr. Denktaş finished his schooling on the island before winning a scholarship to study law in London.

After being called to the bar, he returned to Cyprus and plunged straight into politics as a member of the Consultative Assembly set up by the British Colonial Administration.

He was solicitor general in 1956 and 1957, when he was elected chairman of the "Federation of Turkish Cypriot Associations" — becoming the number two man in the community to the late Faizal Kutluk.

It was then that the Turkish Cypriots began to react against Greek Cypriot demands for "Enosis" — union with Greece — by proposing "taksim" (partition) as an alternative.

Before independence in 1960, Mr. Denktaş led a Turkish Cypriot team on the committee drafting the republic's constitution.

When intercommunal tensions erupted into bloody fighting in 1963, Mr. Denktaş himself ran the risk of death. Returning from abroad in 1964, he found himself banned from Cyprus and spent over three years in exile in Turkey. Trying to return secretly in 1967, he was captured and eventually returned to Turkey.

Several writers say he was saved from possible execution by Turkish pressure and the intervention of Glafos Clerides, a Greek Cypriot then president of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Denktaş returned as Turkish Cypriot negotiator and spent six years in hard, fruitless bargaining with Mr. Clerides.

In 1973 he was elected vice-president, the highest office open to a Turkish Cypriot under the 1960 constitution.

There is little sign Mr. Denktaş has formed even a marginal rapport with Mr. Kyprianou and this, some diplomats say, has contributed to a long deadlock in Cyprus. Mr. Denktaş disagrees.

My only aim is to seek a just solution in Cyprus that will long outlive me and anyone else involved," he said recently.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 721, 1413 KHz.
17:00 Children's programmes	06:00 Newsweek 06:30 The Classical
17:30 Children's programmes	06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections
18:10 Children's programmes	07:00 World News 07:05 24
19:00 Local Programme	07:40 Book Choice 07:45 The World
19:30 Programme Review	08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Book
19:40 News Programme	09:00 World News 09:05 24
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21:15 Programme Review	10:05 News Summary 10:15 24
22:00 News in Arabic	10:30 World News 10:35 24
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Traffic rules must be applied to reduce road accidents, Hassan says

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday received Licensing Department Director Brigadier Ahmad Abu Al Saud, Mr. Subhi Ibrahim and Mr. Wasef Fakhrani who presented the Prince with a copy of a guidebook for drivers on traffic rules which was prepared by Brig. Abu Al Saud.

Prince Hassan paid tribute to the efforts made in the preparation of the book and expressed his hope that it would be circulated and read by the largest number of citizens in order to achieve the goals behind the book.

In the preface to the book, Prince Hassan pointed out that conformity between thought and application and between words and deeds are among the characteristics of great nations.

Prince Hassan also said in the preface that the best means for maintaining laws is to adhere to them and to apply them, because both actions represent the meaning of loyalty and sincerity to the country.

Despite the development Jordan is witnessing, Prince Hassan noted with regret that every day we see a number of road accidents which jolt the conscience. If we carefully examine the causes and results of these accidents, Prince Hassan said, we find that recklessness and indifference on the part of a group of drivers have led to fatal mistakes which claim the lives of people.

Speaking about the book Prince Hassan said that it contained, in detail, all the traffic rules which concern citizens. He said that these regulations should be applied and adhered to in view of the importance of increasing traffic awareness, reducing the number of road accidents and alleviating their effects.

Concluding the preface, Prince Hassan stressed that public safety is an inseparable part of the nation's personality and that it is a common national responsibility.

Two families perish in tragic highway crash

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two families of three and four members were killed Sunday night in a horrible traffic accident near the Karak-Ujarneh junction on the Amman-Aqaba Highway, police sources said.

The victims were travelling in a private car, owned by Mr. Hussein Hadib, and were heading for Aqaba when the car collided head on with an Iraqi tanker truck bound in the opposite direction, eyewitnesses said.

The victims included the late Mr. Hadib, his wife and child and an Indian engineer, his wife and two children who were all taken to Karak government hospital.

A spokesman for Maltrans, company in Jordan, Mr. Gurnadiah told the Jordan Times that the 43-year-old Indian engineer Umikrishnan Menon was the chief engineer in the Maritime Corporation, which is a subsidiary of Maltrans in Aqaba for the last two and a half years.

Mr. Gurnadiah said that Mr. Menon has just received his 40-year-old wife and his two children, seven-year old Shon and four-year old Roshan at the Queen Alia International Airport and he was heading back to Aqaba with the Jordanian family when the accident took place.

According to first reports, the trailer truck hit the private car on a head on collision and dragged it 50 to 60 metres before stopping claiming the lives of those in the car and severely injuring another three persons in a separate vehicle.

The spokesman added that the police are currently conducting investigations and that the bodies are still in Karak government hospital.



Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat (third right) accompanied by Minister of Health Kamel Al Ajlouni (centre) Monday tour hospitals in the Amman and Zarqa areas to inspect medical services (Petra photo).

Obeidat stresses government's interest in health sector, improving services

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat Monday stressed the government's interest in the health services sector and its concern to develop this sector with a view to improving health conditions in Jordan. The government, under the wise directives of His Majesty King Hussein, directs special attention to this sector in view of its direct relationship with the people, he said.

Mr. Obeidat was speaking during a tour which took him to the Ministry of Health, the nursing college in Zarqa, the Zarqa government hospital and Bashir Hospital in Amman.

Starting his tour, Mr. Obeidat visited the Ministry of Health where he presided over a meeting attended by Minister of Health Kamel Al Ajlouni and department heads at the ministry. During the meeting Mr. Obeidat reviewed the progress of work at the ministry and its future plans to upgrade the level of health services. Mr. Obeidat also stressed

the importance of providing medicine in all health centres and called for achieving further coordination between the ministry and the health centres.

Later Mr. Obeidat, accompanied by Dr. Ajlouni and a number of health department heads, visited the nursing college recently established in Zarqa. He then proceeded to Zarqa government hospital where he toured the various sections and listened to a briefing by the hospital's director about the progress of work following improvements made to the various sections particularly in the surgery, emergency and legal sections. The new improvements have contributed towards increasing the capacity of the hospital as it can now accommodate 256 patients, the hospital director said.

Following this, Mr. Obeidat returned to Amman where he toured Al Bashir hospital and inspected the progress of work there. The hospital performs 11,000 surgical operations every year.

Mr. Obeidat also inaugurated a mosque at Al Bashir hospital, construction costs for which were donated by Haj Ghaleb Al Zaghra. Mr. Obeidat and the audience prayed Al Dhuhr and then listened to speeches delivered by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abed Khalaf Dawoudieh who highlighted the importance of mosques in the lives of Muslim people. The minister thanked the prime minister for patronising the inaugural ceremony for the mosque.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Dr. Ajlouni, Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Under Secretary Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, the deputy dean of the Sharia' College at the University of Jordan, department heads from the Ministry of Health, the director of Bashir Hospital and division heads at the hospital in addition to Al Aqsa Mosque Director Sheikh Mohammad Shaqra who welcomed the prime minister.

French audiovisual unit shows cartoon frolics to introduce children to cinema

AMMAN (J.T.) — Baron de Munchausen is a warmhearted, slightly immodest, cartoon character whose crazy and wildly improbable adventures are the subject of a full length feature film to be shown at the Royal Cultural Centre tonight and for the next five days. Directed by one of France's leading animators, Jean Image, "The Fabulous Adventures of the Legendary Baron de Munchausen" is being shown courtesy of the regional audiovisual unit of the French Cultural Centre in Amman.

"When we presented a cartoon film over the holiday season last year, we were delighted by the response — over 1,700 children came," the director of the audiovisual unit, M. Maury said in an interview, "and since cartoons are a good way of introducing children to the cinema, we decided to repeat the idea again this year."

The regional audiovisual unit of the French Cultural Centre is an active if not particularly well-known establishment that has operated from Amman since its transfer from Beirut some four years ago. The main aim of the unit is to introduce all the various kinds of French audiovisual production — feature films, short documentaries, videos and slides — to a wide audience. To do that the unit assures the distribution of these products to 12 countries of the Middle East and Gulf area — namely Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, North and South Yemen, Sudan and Syria.

Every month these countries receive between them over 100 audiovisual documents from the unit's stock of 220 feature films, which date from the early talkies to the latest productions, 600 short documentaries on a wide variety of subjects — medicine, oceanography, art — 700 video cassettes taken from French television and 6,000 slides which illustrate all aspects of French culture and civilisation.

In order to actively promote French audiovisual products here in Jordan, the unit often holds its own film seasons which feature certain themes such as the classics of French cinema, the newest films or the work of a particular director. In order to help the public understand a little more about the films, the unit issues a small leaflet which explains with the aid of critical reviews something about the period in which the film is set, or the message it is trying to convey.

All of the unit's vast collection can be borrowed from the unit's headquarters which is situated in Jabal Weibdeh and many people, including schools are now frequently making use of this facility.

There is also an open invitation to anyone who wishes to organise the showing of a film series, to hold discussions on French films or to learn a little more about different film production techniques to use the unit freely. The unit also wishes to strengthen its ties with the concerned establishments here in Jordan, like for example the Royal Cine Club, which recently

rendered a tribute to the famous French film director Truffaut, and with the French programme of Jordan Television which already takes around 10 per cent of its material from the unit.

Animation course

One of the main events the unit is offering in the New Year is a course in audiovisual animation. The course, which will be attended by local film technicians and by people running the audiovisual units in the other 12 Arab countries will include lectures by a French animation artist coming over especially from France for the occasion and workshops, the course will run for one week in March, dates to be announced.

The unit is also preparing film seasons featuring the work of Jean Pierre Melville, Eric Rohmer and a series of films whose subject will be Paris as seen through the eyes of different directors over the years since 1930.

In the meantime, there will be "The Fabulous Adventures of the Legendary Baron de Munchausen" whose miraculous and humorous feats will appeal to young and old alike. All performances of the film, which is subtitled in both English and Arabic, begin at 4 p.m., except on January 19th when the show will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets at JD 1 for adults and 500 fils for children are available both at the French Cultural Centre and at the Royal Cultural Centre.

8 municipality employees sentenced for misuse of position, embezzlement

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister and Military Governor Ahmad Obeidat has endorsed a military court verdict on eight employees of the Amman Municipality sentencing them to between one and a half years imprisonment to two years with hard labour and fines, the Jordan Times has learned.

According to informed sources, who asked not to be identified, the eight employees who were under investigation for several months, were found guilty of embezzlement and the misuse of their posts in the municipality.

The sources did not give details but said that the convicted persons were collaborating with people from outside the municipality, facilitating illegal transactions and accepting bribes. They said the group was operating a sort of "network" in the municipality which was discovered after one contractor, who had hired an employee at the municipality to take on a project, informed the authorities after he found out that he had been guaranteed immu-

unity.

The sources said the sentences on these employees were endorsed after being reduced from three years imprisonment which is "the ceiling sentence" for such a felony. Other accused employees were acquitted by the court.

Those sentenced were: Asaad Abu Ziad, two years imprisonment; Ibrahim Abdul Wahab, two years; Sami Ammarin, one and a half years; Khaled Juqqa, one and a half years; Farah Rabadi, one and a half years; Wahid Hiasari, one and a half years and Ahmad Khader, one and a half years.

Elections murder

Mr. Obeidat, who took office as

prime minister last year, had pledged to fight administration corruption in the Kingdom, particularly in the public sector.

In another development, the criminal court sentenced four people to periods ranging from one month to five years imprisonment with hard labour for the murder four years ago of a man in Sarh, near Irbid.

During the elections for the Sarh Municipal Council in 1980 which were won by Mohammad Sa'di, one of his supporters provoked a fight when he started celebrating in his own way. The fight resulted in the shooting down of the man by the supporters of the losing candidate who exchanged fire with Mr. Sa'di's group.

The court identified the two sentenced to five years imprisonment with hard labour as K.S. and A.S. The other two sentenced to one month imprisonment were identified as M.N. and M.S.

The number of those accused in this case was 88, Mr. Sa'di won the same elections last month.

Cabinet to hold session in Irbid Thursday

IRBID (Petra) — The Cabinet will hold a meeting in Irbid on Thursday to discuss a number of issues regarding citizens' requests and requirements for general services.

Taking part in the session will be a number of Upper and Lower House of Parliament members, administrative governors, department heads, chairman of municipal and village councils, supervisors of clubs, heads of cooperatives and charitable societies, representatives of the Jordanian Women's Federation Irbid branch and representatives of all walks of life in Irbid Governorate.

Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin said that the governorate has drawn up a working paper on the requests and demands of Irbid citizens for general services. The session, Mr. Al Amin added, aims to strengthen relations between the government and the people for building and developing the country.

Department to apply new disinfectant standards

AMMAN (Petra) — Chemical disinfectants produced locally will not be marketed unless a trade mark is registered with the Ministry of Industry and Trade, according to a decision taken Monday by the Department of Metrology and Specifications.

The department's director, Mr. Salaheldin Taha Monday chaired a meeting at the Ministry of Industry and Trade attended by 15 representatives of the disinfectant manufacturing sector.

Under the new measures, all manufacturers of disinfectants will have now to register the company's trade mark with the company's controller at the Ministry of Industry and Trade together with a full description of the factory's products.

Mr. Taha said that his department requires that each disinfectant product carry a date of manufacture and an expiry date. He instructed all manufacturers who violate the requirements of metrology and specifications to immediately stop any further marketing of their products until they have obtained the approval of the ministry.

Mr. Taha also emphasised the necessity that all factories should establish laboratories to enable them to adhere to production formulae.

He added that the department has suggested forming a joint committee from the department and the manufacturers to ensure that standards will be adhered to.

Dead Sea resthouse due to open next month

AMMAN (Petra) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) department of tourist investment has completed work on the development of the Dead Sea resthouse which will be opened during February, according to the department's director general, Mr. Zuhair Al Ajlouni.

He told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the Dead Sea resthouse project is one of the major and important projects which the department has carried out and that it is expected to receive large numbers of visitors. He pointed out that the resthouse includes parking space for more than 500 cars. The resthouse's restaurant can accommodate 250 persons while three other large sheltered cafeterias can offer services to more than 500 visitors, Mr. Ajlouni said.

Special places provided with safe recreational facilities have been set up for children in addition to two swimming pools for children which have been filled with mineral water from the sea for therapeutic purposes, he added. Mr. Ajlouni said that the Dead Sea resthouse project is one in a series of projects which the department plans to carry out with the aim of encouraging domestic and foreign tourism at reasonable prices and with excellent services. The reason for setting up the tourist investment department at the SSC is to reconsider and to develop tourist facilities to cope with the economic growth in Jordan, Mr. Ajlouni said. The Ministry of Agriculture has contributed to the project by providing 500 saplings to be planted in the resthouse.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent deputises Butros to visit Khouri

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday deputised his special adviser Albert Butros to visit Bishop Elia Khouri, member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Executive Committee, who will undergo a bypass operation at Hussein Medical Centre.

Iraq willing to buy tomato paste

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Iraq has expressed its readiness to buy a total of 2,500 tonnes of tomato paste from Jordan, director of the tomato paste factories at the Jordan Valley Authority, Dr. Amin Al Khatib said Monday in Baghdad. Dr. Khatib is member of the Jordanian delegation which held talks with officials of the Iraqi general corporation for foodstuff industries. The delegation comprises JVA and Audit Bureau officials.

Rabbah joins Arab Cities Organisation

KARAK (Petra) — The Arab Cities Organisation (ACO) has accepted Rabbah Municipality in Karak Governorate as a member in the organisation. Rabbah Mayor Atwa Al Majali said that the municipality will cooperate with the ACO to implement a number of projects for the municipality. Rabbah Municipality will also help to preserve the environment and develop Arab cities, Mr. Majali said.

Mosques begin energy-saving campaign

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abed Khalaf Dawoudieh has instructed officials in charge of mosques all over Jordan to rationalise the consumption of water and electricity in mosques. Mr. Dawoudieh said that a special committee will be set up to follow up on the implementation of these instructions.

CRD registers 487,705 families

AMMAN (Petra) — Civil Registration Department Director, General Rifai Al Hazameh announced Monday that 487,705 Jordanian families are now registered with the department. He added that the total number of family members is 3,158,989 of which 1,637,287 are females.

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In this exhibition, the reproduction of oil paintings of famous Orientalists will be exhibited.

* Holiday Inn

Temperature frigid but arms climate warming

By R. Gregory Nokes
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It was frigid outdoors, but from the outset, the two days of Geneva talks between U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko were characterized by smiles, jokes and cautious good will on both sides.

The normally dour Gromyko, veteran chief Soviet diplomat for 27 years, and Mr. Shultz, seldom given to relaxed public banter, even cooperated in an impromptu comedy routine for reporters at the end of the first day of talks Monday.

"I'm going to the left," Mr. Gromyko joked as they entered a room where the U.S. delegation was giving a reception for the Soviet delegates Monday night. This prompted Mr. Shultz to quip, "we have this convention. When we go into a room, he goes to the left, and I go to the right."

Mr. Shultz wanted absolute public silence from the two sides during the talks, and Mr. Gromyko cooperated completely. At a photo opportunity at the start of their final session Tuesday, Mr. Gromyko shut off questions from reporters, declaring only, "I can

confirm I am Gromyko."

It remains for future negotiations to determine whether the goodwill at Geneva will produce a workable arms control agreement. It took years to negotiate the SALT I and SALT II accords, and there is a consensus of U.S. officials and private analysts that a comprehensive new accord, if there is one, could take just as long.

But William G. Hyland, a Soviet expert and editor of Foreign Affairs magazine, said it may be possible to get a preliminary agreement that may address "Star Wars" technology and other issues in one to two years.

"I get the impression from Geneva that both sides are under a certain amount of pressure from within to produce," he said in an interview Friday. "Neither side wants Geneva to break down."

Signing of an interim arms accord could provide the occasion for a summit meeting between Mr. Reagan and Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko, other officials say.

But even if no agreement is forthcoming in the foreseeable future, the talks last week in Geneva were a significant achievement considering the dismal state of U.S.-

Soviet relations during the first four years of the Reagan administration.

Helmut Sonnenfeldt, a Soviet expert at the Brookings Institution, is among those who believe that arms control negotiations are central to improved relations generally. It was not merely coincidence that a U.S. delegation was in Moscow promoting increased trade ties at the same time Mr. Shultz and Mr. Gromyko were meeting in Geneva.

Mr. Sonnenfeldt, like Mr. Hyland and a former official in the Nixon and Ford administrations, said that for the past 20 years "it has been very difficult to do much unless arms control negotiations were underway."

"Public anxieties here and in Europe are so heavily concentrated on the arms race and nuclear weapons issue, and now the space race, that the public would be very uneasy if no arms talks were going on," Mr. Sonnenfeldt said in an interview Thursday.

The result of the Geneva talks is widely held to be a gain for the Reagan administration, since Moscow gave in on its previous demand that it wouldn't return to

the bargaining table until Washington withdrew its newly installed cruise and Pershing II missiles from Western Europe.

"Russia came without preconditions, eating enormous amounts of crow on the European missiles," Mr. Hyland said. "It is a signal they want to deal."

Even at the Pentagon, where senior officials have been suspicious of State Department efforts to resume negotiations, there was a grudging admission that the Shultz-led delegation had done well.

"Obviously it is a diplomatic victory for the United States," said one informed Pentagon official, who spoke on condition he not be identified. "The Russians came back to the table without any American concessions."

The official also predicted that Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger and Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Perle would be "playing ball now" with the rest of the Reagan administration in trying to seek a workable arms control agreement.

Nevertheless, the official chided Mr. Shultz for agreeing to what the official described as wording on Star Wars technology that is "right out of the Kremlin pro-

paganda book."

He referred to the statement in the communiqué that said the goal of the negotiations is partly aimed at "preventing an arms race in space." He pointed out, correctly, that those precise words were used by Mr. Chernenko and Mr. Gromyko to spell out Soviet goals in advance of the Geneva talks.

It was a formulation the administration had previously avoided, as Mr. Reagan insists that the \$26 billion Star Wars Research project, which he prefers to call the strategic defence initiative, is entirely for defence.

While the wording is not crucial, the Pentagon official said, "It is a term the Soviets have exploited. If we adopt it as our own, it has the connotation we subscribe to their point of view."

State Department officials argue the wording was a small compromise in exchange for Mr. Gromyko dropping his demand that the Reagan administration renounce Star Wars research entirely.

One member of the American delegation, Kenneth Adelman, director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, felt Mr. Gromyko was close to terminating

the talks without agreeing to the resumption of negotiations. An outcome that might have caused the talks to be viewed as a failure.

The follow-up negotiations are to involve three groups negotiating in three subject areas. These are strategic arms, such as intercontinental ballistic missiles, intermediate arms, such as the U.S. cruise and Pershing II missiles and the Soviet SS-20 missiles, and space arms, such as the Star Wars technology, anti-satellite weapons and Soviet anti-missile missiles.

Officials say the United States hopes that agreement in one area, such as a reduction of ICBMs, would not be held hostage by the Soviets to agreement in the other areas, such as on Star Wars, but they can't be sure the Soviets won't insist on an all-or-nothing approach.

The Reagan administration is likely to drive as hard as possible to avoid Star Wars restraints, since it is believed that fear of the Star Wars technology is what brought the Soviets to Geneva.

The chief U.S. aim will be to win a sharp reduction in Soviet land-based ICBMs, where Moscow holds a major advantage.

New era for Mideast?

THE White House yesterday issued a denial that the U.S. and the Soviet Union have agreed to hold talks on the Middle East. Hours before the denial was received here, we had thought that we heard the most encouraging bit of news coming from Washington in a long time.

Had a New York Times, that yesterday confirmed an earlier Israeli newspaper report on the U.S.-Soviet agreement, proved true, we would have seen a change in U.S. attitudes that could only be welcomed towards helping the search for peace in the area.

The shift in fact is long overdue. The U.S. has been trying to go it alone in the Middle East for a number of years now, but it has not succeeded, and nobody gained anything from the impasse. It is natural therefore that Washington should look for the alternative, and to work hand in hand with the other superpower to break the deadlock.

The U.S. loses nothing by involving the Soviet Union in the search for a settlement in the Middle East. On the contrary, it stands to gain in credibility and influence from proving its genuine desire for peace if everybody contributes his share towards success, including Moscow and even the rejectionist Arab states. Moreover, superpower understanding on the hot spots of the world can only lead to the strengthening of their bilateral ties and mutual interests within the framework of global détente.

It has to be said, however, that by agreeing to talk on the Middle East, the U.S. and the Soviet Union would move no more than a starting step, for much remains to be said and done. And given the delicate balance in the area, all moves from there have to be handled with the utmost care. This would be an opportunity that should not be allowed to slip.

Time is also of the essence. Progress on the Middle East must not be made to depend on reaching agreements elsewhere — important as the other issues may be. Space weapons are well above the reality on the ground, and peace in this area cannot wait for all the missiles to disappear.

We are hopeful that Washington and Moscow are beginning a new era, not only for themselves but also for the whole world. There is not that much that separates their positions on the Middle East except for narrow self-interest and petty mistrust that have to be foregone for the sake of peace.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Seeking Arab integrity

KING HUSSEIN started a tour of the Gulf region Sunday to consolidate Arab ranks and restore solidarity and unified action among Arab leaders. His tour is in line with Jordan's policy, which calls for leaving the door open for consultation and coordination with Arab countries about the common issues and means of confronting the challenges and dangers threatening the Arab Nation.

In view of the differences prevailing in the Arab World the least one can do is to try to consult brothers about the steps to be followed in seeking joint action and about measures that can effectively end inter-Arab disputes. We cannot help feeling sorry for the situation in Lebanon and Palestine and the continuing Gulf War.

These major problems should have unified Arab ranks and mobilised their forces and resources instead of leaving them impasse the way they are.

The Arab governments are doing nothing in the face of enemy plans for imposing hegemony over the Middle East region and the enemy's disregard for our aspirations and our rights. In view of the enemy's plots and continued aggression on the Arab Nation, Arab leaders are now called on to get together and find proper measures to repel threats and dangers.

Al Dustour: Rebuilding Arab solidarity

KING HUSSEIN'S tour of the Gulf region comes at a time when Jordan is escalating its drive on all fronts to re-build Arab solidarity and end inter-Arab disputes now plaguing the Arab Nation. Jordan's leadership believes that without a unified Arab front this nation cannot confront external challenges and cannot foil the conspiracies being hatched against the Arabs.

However, it is regrettable to see some Arab states casting doubt about the convening of an Arab summit or belittling the need and the importance of such summit which indeed is required now more than any other time in the past to tackle the various issues confronting Arab countries.

King Hussein who has in mind the weak Arab situation and who believes in the unity of ranks and mobilisation of Arab resources has taken the initiative in contacting Arab brothers with the purpose of explaining the need for measures to unify their action and for holding an Arab summit to plan future strategy.

In view of the special importance which the King assumes in the Arab World and in the light of the strong brotherly relations which Jordan maintains with the Gulf countries, observers believe that there are very good chances for success.

Sawt Al Shaab: Arab difference should end

IT IS impossible to explain the trend among Arab countries to pursue their futile disputes and internal differences which lead nowhere. It is also puzzling to see the Arabs losing parts of their land and their resources being sapped continually without lifting a finger to stop the downward fall to the abyss.

It is painful to see some Arab governments pursuing a course of creating regional blocs in a bid to escape from their national commitments instead of seeking to achieve an all-out Arab unity. What the Arab nations need now is common action and common understanding of their common issues and the dangers threatening their nation.

King Hussein, who realises the real situation prevailing in the Arab World is taking the initiative to bring Arab leaders together in a summit meeting aimed at handling the numerous outstanding questions and chronic issues. He is sincerely trying to re-build Arab solidarity and intrinsic force, which is the only guarantee for ensuring stability, peace and progress for the Arabs.

Is Israel capable of honouring its bond obligations?

AS ECONOMIC conditions in Israel continue to deteriorate, serious questions have arisen about the ability of the Israeli government to honour its bond obligations to American investors.

Sales of Israeli bonds in the United States have fallen significantly, according to Yehuda Halevy, president and chief executive officer of the Israel Bonds Organisation (IBO). In a November interview with the "Jerusalem Post", Mr. Halevy reported that individual sales through the first 10 months of 1982 have fallen to \$170 million — 10 per cent behind last year's depressed levels — while institutional sales dropped by a hefty one-third to just \$100 million.

Even though the IBO had tried to reassure investors about Israel's

promises to pay back the bonds, the IBO "has been inundated with cancellations of commitments to buy bonds made previously by its regular institutional investors," noted the Jerusalem Post. "In many cases these buyers scaled down their purchases from \$5 million to \$3 million, or from \$3 million to \$2 million or \$1 million. In some cases, however, the cancellations were outright."

The principal impetus behind the drop off in sales is the rash of press accounts detailing Israel's huge \$24 billion foreign debt — the highest per capita rate in the world — and the decline in foreign exchange reserves to less than \$2 billion, which is sufficient to cover just six weeks of imports.

According to the IBO, Israel is

slated to make \$137 million in principal payments alone next year on Israeli bonds, but that total is scheduled to mushroom to \$1.8 billion by 1989, when bonds sold to finance the 1973 war come due. Israel's growing budget deficit, declining GNP, and 1,200 per cent annual inflation rate have led some Israeli officials to propose a moratorium on the interest payment on the bonds. It is hardly surprising that investors are turning away from the bonds under these conditions.

Concern about Israeli bonds, however, is not unprecedented. Well before Israel's economic problems became widely publicised, many observers were questioning the advisability of purchasing the bonds, which, for the most part, yield between 4 and 5.5

per cent annually — far below market rates. Investment counselors make no bones about telling their clients that the bonds have more of a political or emotional appeal than a financial reward.

In a veiled warning to potential investors, IBO prospectuses unabashedly read, "This offering may have a special appeal to persons with an interest in Israel, rather than the general public." Neither of the two largest bond-rating services in the country carry ratings for the bonds.

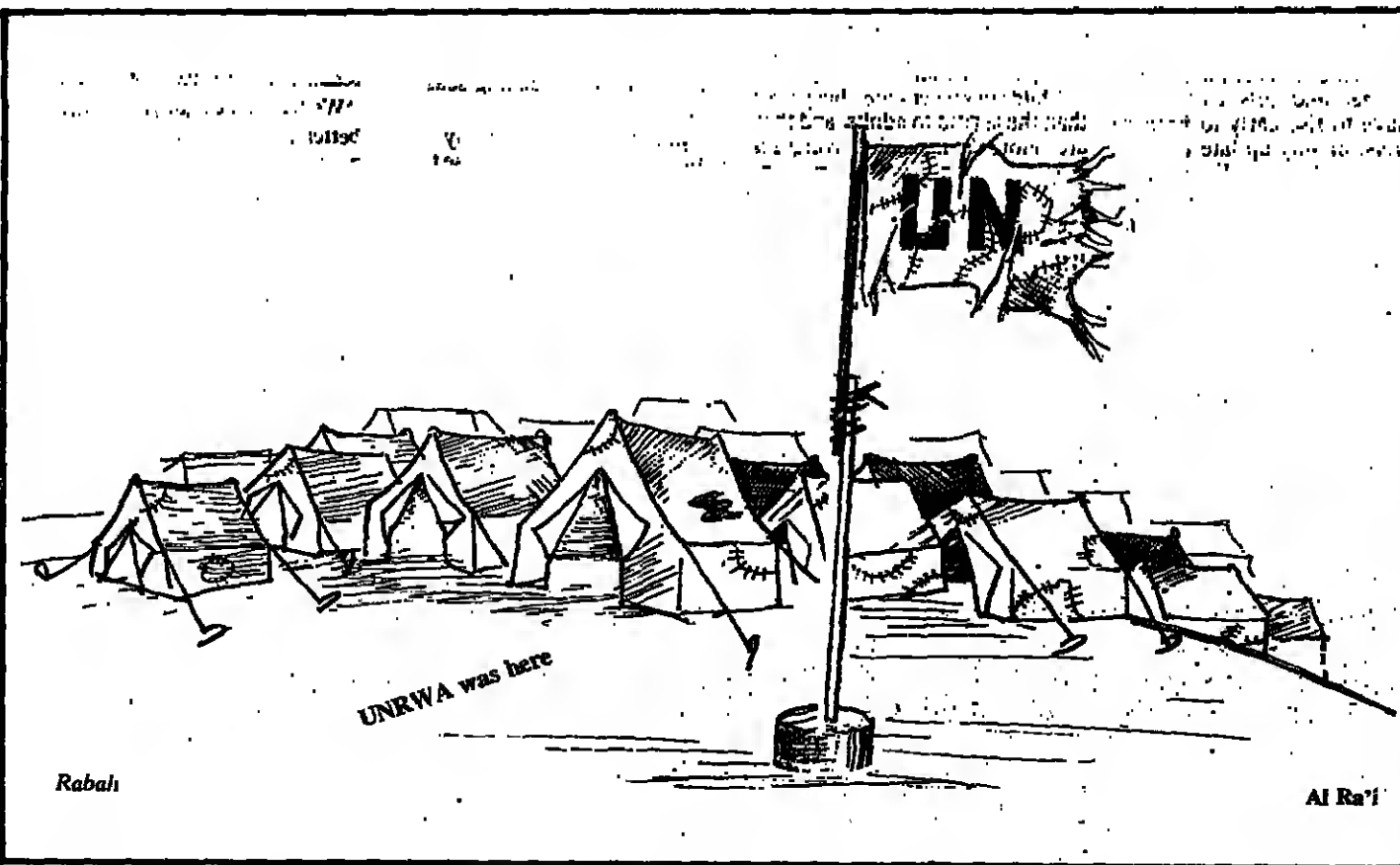
Despite being poor investments, many unions in the United States have purchased the bonds anyhow, much to the dissatisfaction of their members.

Worried that the purchase of the bonds may put their pension fund at risk, members of the Hotel, Restaurant, Institutional Employees and Bartenders local in Boston, for example, recently forced their leaders to stop buying the bonds. Similarly in 1974, members of the United Autoworkers in Detroit staged a wildcat strike to protest their union's purchase of the bonds and were successful in forcing a complete divestiture.

The key question for portfolio managers of union pension funds is whether the purchase of Israeli bonds violates the 1974 Employment Retirement and Security Act's "prudent man" provision. This requires private pension fund managers to invest their funds for

the sole interest of beneficiaries and with the care and diligence of a "prudent man." Several observers have charged that the purchase of the bonds is a blatant violation of this provision.

Another concern raised has been that bond purchasers are unwittingly assisting Israel's construction of settlements in the West Bank. The lion's share of the proceeds are earmarked for "housing and community facilities," and nothing prevents the government from transferring them directly to the settlements budget. In any case, the funds release the government from budgetary constraints for other programmes, enabling it to spend more on settlements — Focus, Washington D.C.



Zia closes door on compromise

By Tom Heneghan
Reuters

ISLAMABAD — Martial law President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq appears to have slammed the door on a possible compromise with Pakistan's opposition by setting tight restrictions on general elections next month.

General Zia, who had earlier been wooing moderate politicians, virtually disqualified all opposition figures of any standing from political life in his speech Saturday night announcing Feb. 25 as the poll date.

Two Karachi leaders central to any compromise with the military government reacted with surprise, saying they had expected Gen. Zia to keep the ban on political parties but not to add so many other restrictions.

Zia wants to gather a national assembly of yes-men and henchmen — the whole game is to perpetuate the present regime," said Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, acting head of the large Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and front-runner for prime minister if a compromise were achieved.

Abdul Wali Khan, leader of the National Democratic Party, said in Peshawar, capital of North-West frontier province, that Gen. Zia was pushing Pakistan towards a bloody revolution by denying a restoration of democracy under the 1973 constitution.

Mr. Wali Khan told a news conference that politicians wanted a change through democratic means "but the country's youth would look for an extremist leadership if they were disappointed with politicians."

Gen. Zia, who has already ensured himself of five more years in power through a controversial referendum on his "Islamic" reforms last month, opened his televised address by saying the five-and-a-half year ban on political parties would not be lifted for the polls.

Federal and local officials of almost all opposition parties were banned from future political activity, some for seven years and more prominent ones for 12 years.

Gen. Zia also decreed that anyone who held high office during the rule of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the former prime minister he overthrew in 1977, was also barred from the elections.

The president exempted all those politicians who had already joined the government and those parties which had registered in 1979 in preparation for polls which, like those Gen. Zia promised within 90 days after the 1977 coup, were later called off.

The moderate Tehrik-I-Islah Party is the only MRD member which registered in 1979, but its President Asghar Khan immediately said it would not take advantage of "this crude concession."

Gen. Zia said he could exempt individuals from the bans on his own initiative or after they had applied for permission to run. "He wants them to come cap-in-hand to ask for his blessing," one Western diplomat said. "I don't think many politicians are going to do that."

Gen. Zia did not say when he would lift martial law, but indicated to newspaper editors afterwards that he would probably keep it for several months after the new civilian national assembly holds its first meeting on March 23.

The president also failed to reveal exactly how he plans to amend the constitution to enhance the power of his office.

Gen. Zia said in August 1982 he wanted to shift power from the Western-style parliamentarianism under the 1973 constitution to the president, a move the MRD has strongly opposed.

Opposition leaders contacted by Reuters in Karachi and Lahore, capital of the large Punjab province, said they felt Gen. Zia's speech would result in greater unity in their plan to boycott the elections.

The two groups appeared to be drifting apart in recent weeks as Karachi leaders like Mr. Jatoi and Mr. Khairuddin were reported to be seeking a compromise, while Lahore leaders were staging weekly anti-Zia protests.

Although the Karachi leaders officially denied any meetings with Gen. Zia or his envoys had taken place, they kept their comments about the government low-key until the speech last night.

The normally more cautious Lahore leaders launched a protest drive after the Dec. 19 referendum, which they said embarrassed and weakened Gen. Zia because the turnout was as low as five per cent in some areas rather than the record 62 per cent the government announced.

Police stayed in the background when about 3,000 activists marched down Lahore's main street on Jan. 4, but then rounded up over 30 dissidents last week and put up roadblocks to prevent an even bigger demonstration Saturday.

Current MRD President Malik Qasim said in Lahore the alliance would meet in the next few days to work out its strategy for the period between now and the polls.

Brazil's next president faces \$100b debt and soaring inflation

By Richard Waddington
Reuters

SAO PAULO — Brazil's first civilian president in 20 years, to be elected on Tuesday, will inherit a mass of economic problems, including huge foreign debts and soaring inflation.

The military-led government, which took power in March 1964 in a bloodless coup, will bequeath external debts of around \$100 billion, the highest in the developing world, and an annual inflation rate of over 200 per cent.

Although the economy grew last year, ending three years of recession, unemployment is still high in the main industrial centres and living standards have barely begun to recover from years of belt-tightening as the government struggled to deal with the debt problem.

How to contain inflation, meet demands for more jobs and better wages and at the same time satisfy the requirements of the country's commercial bank creditors is the hard task facing the successor to President João Figueiredo, economists say.

Brazilian media predict a landslide victory for opposition candidate Tancredino Neves over government candidate Paulo Maluf in the Jan. 15 Electoral College vote. The new president will take office in March.

Mr. Neves, who is backed by an alliance of opposition parties and dissidents from the ruling Social Democratic Party, is widely regarded as an astute and conservative politician.

He told a recent election rally that Brazil had had enough of recession, unemployment and falling living standards, but he has prudently shied away from making specific promises.

During the 1970s, the years of the so-called Brazilian miracle, people here became accustomed to annual growth rates of around 10 per cent, with an accompanying rise in employment.

But hopes for continued economic expansion were dashed by two successive oil crises and a sharply rising interest burden on Brazil's burgeoning foreign debt.

During the years of recession from 1981 to 1983, 450,000 industrial workers in Sao Paulo, the country's main manufacturing centre, lost their jobs, although a Sao Paulo state employers' association reported that 100,000 jobs were recouped last year as industry staged a recovery.

Unions calculate unemployment in the state at around 15 per cent, twice the official estimate.

Independent economists estimate that Brazil's per capita income fell 11 per cent during the recession and that it will take five years of good economic growth for living standards and employment to return to the level of 1980.

Ironically, some of the major problems facing the next government are the same as those that prompted the military to intervene two decades ago, offering to restore economic order and bring about social justice.

In ousting the democratically-elected government of President Joao Goulart, the armed forces accused it of incompetence in allowing the annual inflation rate to rise to 87 per cent and the foreign debt to reach \$3 billion.

Inflation has more than doubled, debts have soared and figures show that the inequality of wealth in Brazil got worse rather than better.

A study by economist Rodolfo Hoffman showed the share of the country's income earned by 80 per cent of the workforce fell from 38 per cent in 1970 to 36 per cent a decade later.

The surge in exports was the driving force behind the revival of economy last year and helped ease Brazil's immediately debt worries by enabling it to build up foreign currency reserves.

With some \$7 billion of cash, Brazil has felt confident enough not to seek any fresh loans from the banks this year in return for a multi-year rescheduling deal which would spread its loan repayments far into the future.

Nevertheless, government officials estimate Brazil will still face an interest bill of around \$12 billion this year. This heavy transfer of resources will limit the country's ability to grow, economists say.

At the same time, Brazil is entering the final year of a three-year financing programme with the International Monetary Fund.

Even Central Bank economists say Brazil's latest letter of intent with the fund, which calls for a stringent monetary measures to reduce inflation, would mean slower economic growth next year.

Ministers admit defeat on inflation, but say they will be handing over a sounder, more balanced economy. The social cost, however, has been high.

Africa suffers the yoke of global recession

AFRICA TODAY is in the throes of an unprecedented crisis fuelled by the global recession. All major economic sectors feel the pinch, resulting in sharp falls in output in industry, mining and agriculture. Overall annual GDP growth in Africa dropped from an average of 4.6 per cent in 1980 to minus 0.1 per cent in 1983, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Jobs and Skills Programme for Africa (JASPA) reports.

The collapse of commodity prices on world markets has had severe repercussions in countries still highly dependent on primary products for foreign exchange earnings.

Reduced exports accompanied by increased import costs in the wake of two successive petroleum price hikes have ruined the balance of payments situation practically everywhere. The external debt of non-oil exporting countries rose to a record of \$75 billion in 1983 and debt-servicing payments have rocketed to more than 20 per cent of the export earnings of Africa as a whole.

Inherent weaknesses

The effects of recession in the industrialised world have clearly

revealed the weaknesses inherent in the African economy, JASPA says.

Despite falling prices and slackening demand, there has been no significant change in the traditional structure of exports dominated by 10 main primary products which constitute 75 per cent of export earnings in Africa: cocoa, tea, coffee, tobacco, cotton, copper, iron, bauxite, petroleum and gas.

Farmers tend to produce more for domestic consumption which is rising than for exports that are declining. Moreover, local prices in some cases have outstripped those offered on the world market. Hence, a gradual return to subsistence type of agricultural production, JASPA says.

The terms of trade of Africa as a whole plummeted from 102.6 in 1970 to 92.4 in 1983. However, the situation was even worse for the low income countries where the corresponding fall was from 108.8 down to 81.3.

The middle income countries have become extremely vulnerable to the recession because of their heavy dependence on large inflows of external capital as a means of stabilising their economies. This worked fine in the seventies when prices for raw

materials were such that African countries were in quite a favourable position to repay their debts. But it's a different story today. Many foreign banks have closed their doors to Africa.

Job losses

African states have adopted a mix of remedial measures aimed mainly at debt financing, balance of payments problems and reduction in government expenditure and subsidies.

While it still remains to be seen how these classical adducts will work out in the longer term, the more immediate question is how some of the belt-tightening steps taken may affect income distribution and the satisfaction of basic needs, to which painful employment is the key.

JASPA findings show that restrictions in the imports of capital goods dictated by balance of payments deficits have led to an alarming decline in modern sector jobs in all countries surveyed.

In Togo, employment in the modern sector decreased by more than two per cent between 1979 and 1983 compared to 1.4 per cent per year for private and parastatal organisations and only 0.25 per cent for public sector employment.

In Ivory Coast, modern sector jobs declined by 12 per cent annually between 1979 and 1981.

Reduced government expenditure has hit the construction industry the hardest. In Zimbabwe, there was a fall of 18.3 per cent in employment between 1975 and 1982. In Zambia, job losses in this sector were even greater with a fall of 55.3 per cent between 1979 and 1983.

Income and basic needs

The recession has also worsened the income distribution situation between various income groups and the satisfaction of basic needs of the poor.

In Ivory Coast, for example, the minimum wage declined in real terms by 18.5 per cent thus leading to more than a 10 per cent increase in the gap between low and average incomes. The forced reduction in nominal wages and salaries in Liberia affected low earners whose income decreased by nearly 17 per cent in January 1983.

The situation of minimum wage earners has thus become quite precarious. The JASPA study found similar trends in Congo, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Zambia and in Zimbabwe where the sit-

uation was made worse both by the wage freeze and the abolition of subsidies on certain basic food items.

The recession has made it impossible for governments to raise producer prices in spite of the high cost of production sustained by the farmers. Producers of cocoa and coffee suffered a 15 per cent decline in income in Ivory Coast during 1981-82. In Sierra Leone producer prices of cocoa, coffee and palm kernel dropped by 42 per cent, 46.5 per cent and 33 per cent respectively in real terms between 1979 and 1982.

Due to pressure of external factors generated by the recession, government expenditures during 1979 to 1983 declined by 19 per cent in Zambia, 12 per cent in Sierra Leone, 25.8 per cent in Liberia, 16.7 per cent in Ivory Coast and 12 per cent in Zimbabwe. These reductions which were part of the stabilisation programmes adopted by these countries have affected the provision of health care, education, housing and other social amenities.

A matter of solidarity

"In this crisis that pervades the African world, it is essential to be on guard against certain dangers,"

warns an ILO assistant director-general, Elimane Kane, who is responsible for the organisation's activities in Africa.

"One risk is that of being hypnotised by only certain aspects of the crisis, in particular the problem of balance of payments and other monetary difficulties which would not sufficiently consider the repercussions in the other areas of economic and social development," he explains.

"Another risky course is questioning the social programmes which some regard as costly and sometimes presented as the major cause of the difficulties."

To strike the right balance between austerity and the social objectives of development is not only a question of economic acumen and political will, but also a matter of international solidarity.

There is, at present, a 30 per cent gap between what African countries have planned to spend on development and what they are actually able to undertake due to dwindling aid. This gap is widening because of cuts by a number of significant donor countries in their aid budgets, especially in funds channelled through multilateral agencies. A reversal of this situation is crucial to Africa's recovery — ILO feature.



Overburdened with other nations' yoke at an early age, Africa is now too weary to walk the distance alone

Plantation workers are today's slaves

Asian plantation workers are the slaves of today, according to a British human rights group. They are underpaid, overworked, poorly housed, poisoned by modern chemicals and trapped for generation after generation.

By Alan Whittaker

LONDON — The slaves of the late 20th century are the plantation workers — those who provide the wealthy with their coffee, tea and sugar, while they and their children often live hungry and die early.

This is the conclusion of one of the world's oldest human rights organisations, the British Anti-Slavery Society, which considers the plight of plantation workers around the world as present-day slavery. In testimony before the U.N. Working Group on Slavery, it said: "The workforce on many plantations lives and works in conditions which approach in misery anything recorded for the 18th and 19th centuries."

These workers, no matter what crop they are producing, share the same brutalised lifestyle. Today, their chains are no longer iron, but are just as effective. They earn so little and pay so much for food that they cannot afford to move away. Free housing is another incentive, but it usually lacks running water, lavatories or adequate cooking facilities.

They also suffer from the chemicals they use. Malaysian rubber

and palm oil workers still spray "Agent Orange", the defoliant used by U.S. troops during the Vietnam war.

Aerial spraying of bananas in the Philippines by one of the world's largest plantation multinationals, the U.S. corporation Castle & Cooke, causes inflammation of the skin. The use of Dioxin and Benlate insecticides by workers not provided with elementary masks is reducing their ability to absorb oxygen through the blood. For such workers, tuberculosis can be fatal.

Child workers in the tea gardens of the Indian state of Assam also use agrochemicals routinely. Many of these herbicides and insecticides are either banned or severely restricted in Britain, the United States and the European Community. Yet Indian youngsters, barefooted, dressed in shorts and rarely in shirts, spray them almost daily.

As plantations provide no pensions or social security, workers must continue to work to survive; escape is unthinkable. In the Philippines, escape is also physically impossible. In the palm oil plantations on the island of Mindanao, armed guards patrol the

perimeters. These guards are drawn from the notorious Lost Command, made up of soldiers too brutal and undisciplined to be kept on in the regular army.

On all plantations, the children do adults' work over adults' hours but without an adult's pay, meagre though that is. They are robbed of their childhood; their right to play, to learn, to develop their full intellectual and physical capacities.

In Malaysia, more than 10,000 children aged between 10 and 14 work in the rubber plantations — illegally, since children are forbidden under the law to work before their 14th birthday. In the palm oil plantations, 60 per cent of all child workers are six to 10 years old.

In Sri Lanka, the tea estates are mostly state-owned. Rajan, a 13-year-old boy, works on one of these. His life is easier than that of the women and girls, as he does not have to rise early to prepare breakfast or stay up late to wash dishes and clothes. His working day is from 7 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. He is too young to be working legally, but then so are the other 364,000 children under 14 on tea plantations.

In Brazil's eastern state of Pernambuco, children as young as seven cut sugar cane alongside their fathers, swinging from 5 a.m. until dusk a machete designed for a grown man's hands and muscles.

Such children, which form about one-sixth of the workforce, are just some of Brazil's army of child agricultural workers. A 1976 national study found that 74 per cent of the nation's 2.5 million working children aged between 10 and 14 were in agriculture.

In Mexico some 20,000 children between the ages of eight and 14 help produce the sugar crop. Last year thousands of these children, who work eight to 10-hour days, marched on Mexico City in protest at their wages and working conditions.

Plantation housing is notorious worldwide. Home on Sri Lankan tea estates is, typically, a wooden room three by 3.6 metres with a small verandah. As many as nine people commonly share this toilet-less, water-less room which, according to law, should house a maximum of four.

Children's wages are always less than those paid to adults, and they are more vulnerable. Wages are often paid in kind, in Assam, supervisors demand a cut from their daily pitances.

All over the world child plantation workers suffer malnutrition in varying degrees. In 1978, the London-based World Development Movement reported that the director in charge of Indian operations for the British tea company Brooke Bond admitted that one in five children on

his Doom Dooma estate suffered from malnutrition. In 1983 the group had pre-tax profits of over \$60 million; tea accounted for 60 per cent of turnover.

Infant mortality is now 62 per thousand on Indian tea plantations. On Sri Lankan plantations it is about 114 per thousand — twice that for the island as a whole. In Britain it is about 12 per 1,000.

Eleven-year-old Lachmi — named for the Hindu goddess of wealth and fortune — has been working for a year in the Dibrugarh tea gardens, which produce almost half of the tea crop in India's Assam state.

Her day starts at 4 a.m. when she helps her mother prepare breakfast for themselves, her father and her brother. The whole family labours, and by 6 a.m. during the four annual tea-plucking seasons they are at work.

Children are particularly valuable at harvest time because their softer, more dexterous hands do not bruise the leaves. Undamaged crops are essential for the high quality tea sold to India's two biggest customers, Britain and the Soviet Union.

Lachmi, like the other 40,000 pre-adolescents in Assam's tea gardens, earns the equivalent of 40 or 50 cents for picking 20 to 25 kilograms of leaves in a day.



"We have a little of your wages for you each week, so that you can afford the face to go and look for a better job... in about fifty years."

During the plucking seasons, Lachmi may work nine or 10 hours a day, six days a week.

After work, she starts her other job. She collects water from the communal tap and, while her mother cooks the evening meal, she washes the family's clothes. She then does the dishes.

Her food is monotonously predictable: chapatis (pancake shaped unleavened bread) and tea with

hour milk for both breakfast and lunch, and rice with a few vegetables or lentils for supper.

Neither Lachmi's father nor brother helps in the home — a bamboo shack lacking all facilities. Her father spends his time, and some of his money, in a local shop where he drinks rice liquor. Lachmi has not yet started drinking, but many of her friends have. An early 1970s survey

found that half of the child workers drank alcohol, and that 40 per cent of their parents were regular drinkers. Strangely for Hindu society, this figure included the women.

Lachmi has no time to play, to study, or to wonder if there is a life for her off the plantation. She does get occasional days off — when she is too ill to work — Earthscan feature.

The 'poor man's cow' can enhance production

By Zulf M. Khalifa

OFTEN called "the poor man's cow," sheep and goats are generally neglected in the food production systems of many developing countries. Their economic importance to agricultural development is often overlooked by researchers, scientists and governments. Usually, they are brushed aside as environmental degraders — a situation that, more often than not, is due to lack of proper human management. As well, products from these animals tend to be consumed by the producing family, and therefore never reach the marketplace.

But these small ruminants produce vital food and generate income for some of the world's poorest people. And, if properly produced, they could prove very beneficial to developing countries, as they have several practical advantages over larger ruminants such as cattle. Like other ruminants, sheep and goats can convert low-quality fibrous feeds to high quality products. However, they have a higher biological efficiency than cattle in converting that fodder into meat or milk, and they derive most of their diet from products available by humans.

Though they are generally owned by poor farmers (96 per cent of the world's goats and 56 per cent of its sheep are located in developing countries), sheep and goats are the world's main domesticated small ruminants in terms of total numbers, food production and fibre yield.

Sheep and goats have a number of characteristics that offer considerable potential for increasing production of meat and milk, as well as the incomes of smallholders in developing countries. Their small size generally makes sheep and goats easier to handle, especially by women and children. Shelters and pens are simple to construct and less costly to build than those needed for other livestock.

The smaller size of the ruminants is associated with lesser yields of meat per head slaughtered



and milk per lactating female. Yet these small quantities are often enough to meet the daily needs of subsistence families with limited ability to preserve surplus food products.

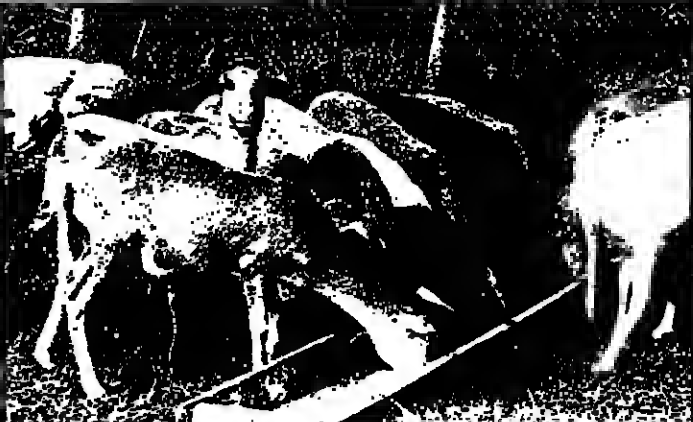
As well, the lower cost of nutrient requirements per head could mean that sheep and goats may fit the limited resources of small farms or marginal grazing lands that cannot sustain larger ruminants throughout the production cycle. Moreover, lower capital costs per head give rise to potentially more rapid cash flow, making sheep and goats less risky investments and more affordable by small farmers. Consequently, the economic impact of losses is less for sheep and goats than for cattle.

Sheep and goats are also adaptable to various environments. Their different grazing habits often complement each other and cattle. Sheep and goats are more selective feeders than cattle, ten-

ding to select the better portion of plants. Because goats are browsers — whereas sheep and cattle are grazers — they can feed upon a larger range of plant species. This is especially advantageous under dry range conditions in which the surviving vegetation tends to be deep-rooted shrubs and bushes.

Sheep and especially goats are more agile, allowing them to feed over much rougher terrain than cattle. They can also travel further without water. As a result, their feeding range is widened, as compared to other ruminants.

It is a popular misconception that sheep and goats alone are to blame for land degradation. On the contrary, when properly managed, these small ruminants are capable of stabilising or regenerating land subject to erosion. Goats have been used to rehabilitate rangeland affected by noxious shrubs, while goats resistant to trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness) have been used to



clear the low brush habitat favoured by the tsetse fly that spreads the disease in Africa.

Sheep and goats are also more profitable under drought conditions, as they show a higher survival rate than cattle. Moreover, because of higher reproduction rates, their numbers can be restored rapidly after a drought.

In some breeds, the short reproductive cycle and multiple births are also advantageous. Females may conceive in one period of good feed and lactate in the next. Their 8-to-9-months birth intervals often fit the seasonal rainfall patterns in many regions better than the 14-to-16-month intervals of cattle and buffalo. Profitable breeds can produce twins, triplets, or quadruplets.

However, sheep and goats are not without characteristic disadvantages. Their proliferation is hindered by their susceptibility to predators because of their small size. They are easy targets for theft, have low individual commercial value relative to input and labour costs, and are potential environmental degraders when left to graze uncontrolled. And although they are less susceptible to hoof and mouth disease and trypanosomiasis than cattle, they are also more susceptible to certain respiratory diseases and internal parasites, especially when kept in large flocks and herds.

Small ruminant production and productivity can be improved by

modifying feeding, management and health practices. IDRC is currently involved in a goat production project in Peru, as well as one involving goats and sheep in Zimbabwe. The general aim of these projects is to develop improved techniques for sheep and goat rearing that are suitable to the ecological and socio-economic conditions in both areas. This includes nutritional breeding and health components, as well as management and marketing strategies.

Most small ruminant producers identify the lack of available cultivated forages, water, and feed supplements as the main obstacles to better production. Efforts are also needed to improve animal breeds.

The result of the projects, and the improving of production, will not only help the small farmers who derive income from the production of sheep and goats, but the urban population whose traditional diet consists of goat milk and cheese. Those using leather and wool will also benefit.

The future for sheep and goats could be bright. A reevaluation and systems approach will enable sheep and goats to gain their due recognition as important contributors to small-scale farms in poor regions, where they can then act as a lever to improve the economic state of those relatively poor who depend on them as a way of life.

'Third World' women will bear brunt of U.S. aid cut

At a meeting in London at the end of November, the world's largest non-governmental family planning organisation told its donors of the financial crisis it faces due to the threat of withdrawal of funding at the end of 1984 by the U.S. government.

By Frances Dennis

THE International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) has told its international donors that it faces a shortfall of more than \$17 million in the funds needed in 1985 to support its worldwide family planning programmes.

In an emergency response to the anticipated withdrawal of U.S. funds, the Federation has informed family planning associations in developing countries that it will be unable to meet in full their requests for help.

The Federation had expected an income of \$55 million, mainly from governments, and would have disbursed most of this (more than \$40,000) in grants to 98 family planning associations in developing countries, applying the rest to support the volunteer structure of the organisation and provide technical assistance and management services.

Last August the United States

announced that it would no longer fund "separate non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which perform or actively promote abortion in other countries." Although abortion-related activities constitute less than one per cent of IPPF's expenditure it has been widely surmised that the federation is the target of the new American policy.

Meanwhile IPPF is continuing negotiations with the United States Agency for International Development (AID) to see how the present impasse can be overcome. The Federation's Central Council has ruled, however, that there should be no change in IPPF's policy to respect the autonomy of its members in deciding how to conduct their own family planning programmes, including the option to provide abortion counselling referrals or, in some cases, services.

The United States, the largest and one of the longest-standing supporters of IPPF, has been providing about \$11 million annually over the past few years and an additional \$4 million worth of contraceptive supplies. Other major donors include the Nordic countries, Japan, Canada, West Germany, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, which gave £3 million to the federation in 1984 and is expected to increase its contribution in 1985. Donor governments and private agencies were officially told of the situation at the annual donors' meeting, held in London on Nov. 29 and 30.

In the financial crisis caused by the possible loss of its U.S. funds, IPPF will need to cut its London-based staff and field staff from some 220 to about 165, close several field offices in developing countries and reduce country grants by \$7 million.

Every effort is being made to mitigate the damage to family planning services for those in greatest need in the poorest developing countries, particularly in Africa. — People feature.

Bahraini women may lose their only solace

By Dina Matar

BAHRAIN — Each afternoon they gather at someone's house — groups of Bahraini women in their black abayas (cloaks), getting together for a bubble-bubble smoke.

Soon comes the laughter, singing and dancing. The abayas are shed and the bubble-bubble — a rudimentary form of hookah pipe — comes round with the coffee and fruit.

"This is our 'siesta'. We can't do without it," says Malka, a 40-year-old mother of 11, settling herself on the cushioned floor as the pipe goes round.

Local belief has it that smoking the bubble-bubble extends your life. Devotees say it helps you

relax and clears the mind. But doctors argue the habit is as dangerous to health as any other form of smoking. They say it reduces the sense of smell and causes inflammation of the lungs.

And they want an all-out campaign to stop the use of bubble-bubbles, especially by women, on this Gulf island state.

No-one knows exactly how many women here smoke the oriental water-tobacco pipe, but health and social workers say the practice is more popular with women in Bahrain than among their counterparts in other Arab Gulf countries.

The bubble-bubble spread throughout the Arab World during Ottoman rule between 1493 and

1914. Women took to it in many centuries when it was thought as graceful if they smoked cigars.

Believed to have originated in Persia, new Iran, the pipe is a long flexible tube through which smoke is drawn and inhaled.

The device a woman uses is smaller, more graceful, than a man's. The vase is usually earthen clay rather than glass.

Malka says heavy smokers may spend a fortune on tobacco leaves, usually imported from Oman or the Asian subcontinent.

Girls get the bubble-bubble habit as early as 12 years old, she adds.

McEnroe retains Masters crown

NEW YORK (R) — John McEnroe gave one of the finest performances of his brilliant career to beat Ivan Lendl 7-5, 6-0, 6-4 and retain the Grand Prix Masters tennis title at Madison Square Garden Sunday.

In beating Lendl for the seventh time in their last eight meetings, the top-seeded McEnroe never lost his service while breaking the third-seeded Czechoslovak's booming service five times in a row.

Those five breaks occurred as McEnroe reeled off 11 straight games from 4-5 in the opening set to 2-0 in the third.

Lendl recovered to hold his own with the Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion during the last eight games of the match, but by then his fate was sealed.

Lendl, who beat McEnroe in the 1983 Masters final but then lost to him in three sets in last year's final, said his inability to handle the New Yorker's service

was the major reason for his defeat.

Lendl was able to reach breakpoint on McEnroe's service only twice. In the 12th game of the first set and in the second game of the second. Time and again McEnroe fired in aces with his wickedly angled serve.

He also applied constant pressure, both by attacking the net behind his service and deep approach shots, and with penetrating, sharply-angled groundstrokes which either produced outright winners or induced errors.

"I felt that I could do whatever I wanted to with the ball today," said McEnroe who also won the Masters in 1979 during his first appearance in the event. "For a

10-game period I played as well as I've ever played, if not better." McEnroe's play did not appear to suffer from a self-inflicted eye injury in the 12th game of the first set.

After Lendl had taken the score to deuce with a forehand placement, McEnroe screamed at a court-side photographer and then was struck in the right eye by a ball he had been bouncing on his racket.

Unable to see out of the eye, McEnroe took a three-minute injury break. Returning to the court, he then saved two breakpoints, the second with an ace, to take the set.

"I couldn't see out of the eye," he said later. "But as soon as I got back into the match I felt fine. The break seemed to pick up my game."

McEnroe swept through the second set after saving another breakpoint at 30-40 in the second game.

He was even more invincible on serve in the third set. After breaking Lendl on three errors and a backhand service return, he yielded only three points in his five service games.

"I tried to change things when he got ahead," Lendl said. "I became more aggressive and I took something off my serve because he was returning so well."

"I was returning his serve well I thought, but I still wasn't able to break him. Every time he got in trouble he came up with something good, and once he gets ahead he plays much better."

McEnroe's victory was his 12th over Lendl in 21 meetings and 10th in their last 12 matches.

He won all but one of their seven matches last year, losing to Lendl only in the final of the French Open when the Czechoslovak came from two sets down to capture his first Grand Slam tournament.

Italy's Magoni scores 1st World Cup victory

PERFONTE, West Germany (R) — Italian teenager Paoletta Magoni braved one of the toughest mountain slopes of the World Cup ski season to win the women's slalom Monday, her best result since her shock Olympic victory last year.

Despite treacherous conditions which saw only 19 of the 83 starters finish Magoni, 19, clocked the best time on both legs to notch her first World Cup victory.

Her total time of one minute 47.18 seconds put her more than a second ahead of Brigitte Oertli of Switzerland (1:48.50) and another Italian Daniela Zini (1:49.18).

Magoni was tied in first place with current World Cup champion Erika Hess on 50.93 seconds after the opening leg but the Swiss girl missed a gate near the bottom of the final leg and crashed out. A delighted Magoni, who pro-

ved here that her Olympic victory in Sarajevo was no fluke, said: "It was a very difficult slope but that suits the Italians. We always do well when conditions are tough."

Oertli, whose second place took her to the top of the overall World Cup standings level with her compatriot Michela Figini on 165 points, said the course was as tough as at Maribor, Yugoslavia when there were also a large number of non-finishers.

In Berne, Swiss skier Pirmin Zurbriggen, the reigning men's World Cup champion and current leader, had a knee operation Sunday and is expected to be ready for next month's world championships.

Zurbriggen hurt his knee on his way to winning his second downhill in successive days on Kitzbuehl's famed Hahnenkamm course at Kitzbuehl, Austria, on Saturday.

Navratilova, Maleeva in final

WASHINGTON (R) — Top seed Martina Navratilova and fourth seed Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria advanced to the finals of the \$150,000 Washington Women's Indoor Tennis Championships.

Navratilova needed only 46 minutes to beat fellow American Zina Garrison 6-1, 6-2 while Maleeva beat Kathy Rinaldi of the United States 7-6, 6-1.

Garrison, who has played Martina eight previous times without a win, tried to change her strategy from earlier matches in the week by playing a serve and volley game. She failed to stop Navratilova and committed numerous unforced errors.

In the first set Navratilova's serve was on target. Garrison tried rushing the net but was passed each time.

In the second set Garrison won the first game, but Navratilova picked her game up with an assortment of drop shots and serve and volleys.

"Tonight I felt like my serve

couldn't miss," Navratilova said after the match. "Even when I thought my serve was going out it was in deep and when you have sets like that you know you're playing well."

Ed Moses arrested

HOLLYWOOD, California (R) — Olympic champion hurdler Edwin Moses, 29, was arrested early Sunday on Hollywood's Sunset Boulevard for soliciting a woman police officer masquerading as a prostitute, police said Monday.

Police Sergeant Tim Tyree told Reuters that a small amount of marijuana was also found underneath the seat of Moses' car.

He said Moses was arrested shortly after 3 a.m. Sunday at the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Genesee Avenue in Hollywood, one of the U.S. film capital's most notorious areas for prostitution.

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Tenders are invited from eligible bidders from member countries for supply of Permanent Way Materials as per details given below:

- Country - Jordan
- Project Title - Supply of Permanent Way Materials for Renewal Project: Aqaba Railway Corporation, Jordan.
- Loan Number - 2463-0-JO
- Project Information - The materials are required for carrying out complete Track Renewal for 101.4 kms. of track in three stretches between El-Hassa Jn. to Aqaba on Aqaba Railway Corporation, Ma'an, Jordan. Govt. of Jordan has received World Bank loan for the multimode transport project, which includes this work.
- Description of Materials:
RAILS, WOODEN SLEEPERS, CONCRETE SLEEPERS, FASTENERS, ETC.
- Bidding Documents will be available at the office of Aqaba Railway Corporation, Ma'an or its representative at the Ministry of Transport, Amman and upon payment of non-refundable fee JD 160.
- Offers must be handed over to chief clerk at Ma'an Station not later than 1200 o'clock on Saturday, 16-3-1985.

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TENDERS' NOTICE

The Directorate of Projects/Ministry of Education announces the issuing of the following tenders which are part of the Educational Projects sponsored by the World Bank.

A. Fourth Educational Project:

Tender No.	Title	Tender Fees
9/85	Basic Training W/S	JD 10,000
10/85	Diesel Mechanics W/S	JD 5,000
11/85	Woodworking W/S	JD 5,000
12/85	Electric W/S	JD 5,000
13/85	Instrumentation W/S	JD 5,000
15/85	Telecommunications W/S	JD 5,000
16/85	Basic Fittings	JD 10,000
17/85	Agriculture & Hort. W/S	JD 5,000
18/85	Appl. W/S	JD 5,000
19/85	Electric Hand Tools	JD 3,000
20/85	Wood working Hand Tools	JD 3,000
21/85	Diesel Hand Tools	JD 3,000

B. Third Educational Project:

22/85	Medical Labs. Furniture	Free of charge
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Interested bidders are invited to collect tenders' documents from procurement division at the Directorate of Projects/Ministry of Education starting Jan. 14, 1985 against the payment of the above fees.

Closing date will be 10.00 a.m. of April, 7, 1985 except Tender No. 22/85, Feb. 26, 1985.

Director of Projects

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India plans to double oil production by 1990

NEW DELHI (R) — India, which four years ago imported two-thirds of its oil, plans to produce nearly all it needs by 1990, a top oil official said Monday.

Mr. A.K. Malhotra, a member of the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), told a business meeting ONGC planned to produce 200 million tonnes of oil and natural gas over five years beginning on April 1.

Mr. Malhotra said the plan would mean doubling oil production.

The plan involves deep, difficult drilling. It will cost an estimated \$18 billion, 250 per cent more than the outlay in the current five-year plan ending on March 31.

India decided in the 1970s to invest heavily in exploration when world oil prices began to soar. "Ten years ago, India had excess imports, a problem faced by many developing countries. Since then, there has been a dramatic shift, with energy imports cut by half and a huge programme of energy exploration," Mr. Bevan Waide, chief of the World Bank's mission here, told Reuters.

EC, GCC to resume talks on petrochemicals dispute

BAHRAIN (R) — The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and European Community (EC) will hold formal talks in Brussels early next month on a dispute over Gulf petrochemical exports to Europe, a GCC spokesman said Monday.

The meeting will be a follow-up to exploratory talks in Bahrain last November, he told Reuters by telephone from the Saudi Arabian capital, Riyadh. The date of the meeting has yet to be fixed, he said.

The two sides have been seeking a compromise on Gulf petrochemical sales to Europe since the EC imposed a 13.5 per cent customs tariff on imports of Saudi methanol in August.

Saudi Arabia has brought several large petrochemical plants on stream in the past year and aims to eventually capture five per cent of the world market.

More plants are expected to begin production in other Gulf states this year.

European diplomats say prospects of an agreement appear dim.

ONGC produces most of India's oil. Output has risen from 11.8 million tonnes in 1979-1980 to an estimated 29 million in 1984-1985.

Imports have dropped from 21 million tonnes in 1980-1981 to about seven million in 1984-1985.

ONGC Chairman S.P. Wahi said India aimed to achieve self-sufficiency and self-reliance in technology and oil equipment and services by 1990.

In its drive for self-reliance the government has invited few foreign firms to drill, but it still imports some specialised equipment.

The oil boom has swollen the national treasury, helping to reduce India's chronic trade deficit and releasing funds urgently needed to combat poverty.

"Look at the financial plight of Third World countries that still have to import most, if not all, of their oil," an American banker told Reuters.

"Imagine how much worse things would be here, with the world's second biggest population. That is the measure of what the oil boom has meant to India," the banker said.

Japan reports \$33.7b trade surplus in 1984

TOKYO (R) — Japan Monday announced a record trade surplus with the rest of the world of \$33.68 billion last year, a 64 per cent increase over 1983.

The finance ministry said exports rose nearly 16 per cent to record \$170.13 billion, while imports grew only eight per cent to \$136.45 billion.

Japan's strong trade performance was helped by growing demand in the United States, its most important market.

The U.S. economic recovery triggered a 40 per cent rise in demand for Japanese goods worth a record \$60 billion, the root cause of a record \$33.11 billion surplus in Japan's favour.

Electronic goods were the jewel in Japan's 1984 trading crown, especially a 30 per cent rise in exports of video tape recorders largely sparked by sports fans eager to treasure highlights of the Los Angeles Olympics.

The falling price of oil, Japan's major import, helped to stem an advance in the total value of imports.

Because of the yen's weakness against the dollar, Japan exported nearly 15 per cent more cars than

in 1983 and eight per cent more steel products, with China emerging as a major market.

The United States and Europe have demanded that Tokyo do more to help them sell their goods in Japan.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone responded last year by creating a special group of cabinet ministers charged with finding ways to redress the trade imbalance, which economists say could grow to \$40 billion this year.

Mr. Nakasone told President Ronald Reagan when they met in Los Angeles this month that the group hoped to come up with some ideas this spring.

Mr. Satoshi Sumita, governor of the Bank of Japan, the country's central bank, said Monday Japan's enormous surplus made it vulnerable to criticism.

"It could invite grave problems in the future if Japan takes away employment from its trading partners," he said.

"That will encourage protectionism, which would isolate Japan economically. We must continue to address this problem this year," he warned businessmen in a lecture.

Airlines offer \$40 million to Laker to settle lawsuit

LONDON (R) — British Airways and 11 other companies have offered former airline tycoon Sir Freddie Laker and his creditors more than \$40 million to settle an American conspiracy case, a source close to lawyers of the companies said Monday.

The source said the deal had been offered to Sir Laker during weekend talks at a Miami hotel. He said the talks ended Sunday night without Sir Laker accepting or rejecting the offer.

Laker Airways crashed three years ago and the airline's liquidators have brought \$1 billion civil action for damages. They claim that the world's major airlines conspired to drive Sir Laker out of business with cut-price fares.

The defendants in the case include British Airways, Pan Am, TWA and Lufthansa. The court action is a major problem for the British carrier, whose scheduled flights on the London stock market is being delayed by the Laker case.

The source said the package now being discussed involved a total settlement of \$40 to \$50 million with an offer to Sir Laker personally of between \$2 and \$4 million.

Laker's creditors were owed a total of \$250 million (now \$280 million) when the airline, which pioneered cut-price flights across the Atlantic, went bankrupt.

The intended sale of state-owned British Airways to the private sector later this year was one major reason for the weekend talks in Miami.

A senior British Airways source said: "These talks have been forced on the agenda by the fact that both B.A. (British Airways) and the government would like this cleared up before privatisation goes ahead. It will be better for potential investors if there is not a continuing legal action."

U.S. beats Japan in survey on economic competitiveness

GENEVA (R) — The United States has displaced Japan as the most economically competitive country in the world, according to a survey released Sunday by the European Management Forum (EMF), a non-profit foundation.

The survey, in its sixth annual edition, measured a variety of factors, including economic dynamism, industrial efficiency, state interference in the economy and the availability of capital. It also assessed education levels of the workforce, motivation, innovation and political stability.

More than two-thirds of the 302 criteria came from statistics and the rest from an opinion poll of corporate executives and leading economic personalities.

EMF said Japan, the long-time leader, slipped to third place behind the United States and Switzerland, also last year's number two. But the margin separating them was very slight.

West Germany was again in fourth place, followed by Denmark, Sweden, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway and Finland. Britain came in 14th and France 19th.

London acts to bolster sterling

LONDON (R) — The British government Monday took drastic action to halt the collapse of the pound sterling, sharply pushing up interest rates to 12 per cent and temporarily abandoning its previous hands-off policy.

Early Monday sterling hit a record low in Asian trading of \$1.10, indicating that a one per cent interest-rate rise by British banks last Friday had failed to arrest the pound's steady decline on world currency markets.

Emergency talks followed between Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Nigel Lawson and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Shortly afterwards the Bank of England announced it was resurrecting for Monday only its minimum lending rate (MLR) or guideline to banks, setting it at 12 per cent.

The four big British commercial banks, which had already upped their base rates to 10.5 per cent from 9.5 per cent and 9.75 per cent on Friday, immediately followed the official lead, matching the Bank of England's 12 per cent rate.

The move quickly gave a lift to sterling to about \$1.13. This compared with \$1.15 a week ago but was still far below the \$1.40 it was worth a year ago.

Dealers said the pound was still weak but now had a base for recovery.

The cost of house purchase mortgages, a key factor in the inflation rate, is likely to rise, and the higher interest rates dealt a sharp blow to the stock market, where prices had been setting record on an export boom as sterling declined.

The Financial Times 30-share index plunged 16 points during the morning to 952.3 after similar losses on Friday following the earlier bank base rate rise.

Traders were surprised by the firmness of the government's action. Mr. Lawson and Mrs. Thatcher have in the past preferred as a matter of policy to let the pound find its own level.

Mrs. Thatcher suspended MLR — the British bank rate — in 1981 in line with this policy and its reintroduction Monday was seen as a sign that the government had suddenly become very concerned about sterling's decline against other major currencies.

"This radical step shows the government now takes the sterling exchange rate very seriously, albeit a bit late in the day," said one dealer.

Mr. Lawson, who had been under fire at the weekend over the sterling slump, said on radio shortly before Monday's announcement that his main concern

was that the weak pound could push up British inflation.

"This government is not prepared to take any chances with inflation and will certainly take whatever action is necessary to prevent the pound from falling to levels where inflationary forces are stronger again," he said.

This is the second time in a year that interest rates have been raised sharply to bolster the pound. Last July, with the behind-the-scenes encouragement of the government, bank base rates spiralled upwards by 2½ percentage points to 12 per cent to counter a sterling slump.

The latest decline has for the first time raised fears that the pound may fall to or below parity with the dollar.

An editorial in the tabloid Sun, Britain's top-selling daily newspaper and a staunch supporter of Mrs. Thatcher, Monday morning begged her to "go to the barricades for the pound."

But the London Standard, also a conservative newspaper, reacted to Monday's news with the headline: "Lawson hits the panic button."

The opposition Labour Party also said Monday's MLR move was a panic measure which would damage prospects of reducing the high 13 per cent unemployment, while minority Liberal leader Mr. David Steel blamed Mr. Lawson's "off-handed negligence" for the crisis.

Exports to fuel growth in Europe, experts say

NEW YORK (R) — A panel of economists said Sunday that a surge in exports in 1985 would give Western Europe its best showing of economic growth in five years.

The European board of economists of Time magazine, which published the predictions, said low inflation, a productivity improvement rate of 3.5 per cent and declining interest rates would also contribute to 2.8 per cent growth this year.

"This business pickup is bringing a long-overdue antidote to the pessimistic view that Western Europe was condemned to an economic decline," the magazine said.

Mr. Hans Mast, one of the board's five members and an executive vice-president of Credit Suisse, predicted Western Europe's trade surplus this year would more than triple to \$25 billion from 1984.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (AP) — Share prices hurtled down on the London Stock Exchange on Monday after British banks hiked their lending rates for the second time since Friday as the Conservative government sought to prop up the battered pound.

The Financial Times index of 30 industrial shares plummeted by 19 points to 949.3.

Earlier, the Bank of England set a minimum lending rate of 12 per cent, forcing British banks to raise interest rates to best customers to 13 per cent. They had hiked the rate by one per cent on Friday.

Leading industrial shares were mostly down by between 2-9 pence in busy trading. Some blue chips lost 18-20 pence.

Dealers said the market was unnerved both by the interest rate rise and the pound's continued weakness against the U.S. dollar.

British government stocks were down by 15/16 to 1½.

Major oil shares lost 5-7 pence.

Main list South African golds lost 50 cents or more in thin trading.

The four main clearing banks retreated 13-20 pence, except for Midland which lost 7.

Among widespread losers, metals fabricators, stores, electricals, tobaccos and food retailers were worst hit.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.1272/82	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3214/17	Canadian dollars
	3.1645/55	West German marks
	3.5730/45	Dutch guilders
	2.6553/65	Swiss francs
	63.33/37	Belgian francs
	9.6950/7000	French francs
	1946.0/7.0	Italian lire
	254.58/68	Japanese yen
	9.0725/0825	Swedish crowns
	9.1650/1750	Norwegian crowns
	11.3150/3250	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	301.00/301.50	U.S. dollars

Oil minister says OPEC determined to hold prices

CARACAS (OPECNA) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is making "important efforts to prevent any decrease whatsoever in crude oil prices," Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti said here at the weekend.

Underlining OPEC's efforts to restore order and stability to the world oil market, the minister condemned "the continuing campaign against the organisation by the international media."

He told journalists after a meeting with President Jaime Lusinchi that OPEC had "never been so active," noting that it would hold three important meetings this month: A discussion on oil price differentials, a meeting of the newly-formed committee to audit member countries' oil production and prices, and an extraordinary ministerial conference.

Dr. Hernandez stressed that through the meetings "we can continue advancing with the strategy we devised to defend oil prices."

"Meanwhile, interested parties in all countries are hitting us with negative information. Manipulated in an attempt to influence producers psychologically. But we know very well what we are doing," he declared.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OEGOS

YETID

CHINLE

TINVER

MUCH OF THE AUDIENCE AT THAT OPERA HOUSE WAS THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MADLY DEMON SUNDAY FUMBLE
Answer: What that tiny millionaire was — AN "ELF-MADE" MAN

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword By Kathryn Righter

ACROSS

1 Moist

5 A capricious Dionysus

10 Cupid

14 Arrow poison

15 Pursue

18 Number of Hydra's heads

17 Fly high

19 Tribal symbols

20 Medical symbol

22 Having the greatest age

23 Mortimer or Felix

25 Affirmative

26 Examine

28 Pair

31 Air, village

34 Quercine nuts

36 Adam's grandson

38 Oriental saah

39 Restraining garments

41 More verdant

43 Sea bird

44 Escapes slowly

45 Dionysus' mother

47 Cozy

48 Chagall

51 Ponder

52 Intimidate

54 Rich cake

56 Slag

59 Young plant

60 Symbols of academic achievement

62 Culture medium

67 Perforary's cousin

68 Styles

69 Proboscis

70 Socialist

71 Fashion

72 Linn

7 Emphysema

8 Employ

9 Stew in heraldry

10 Battery parts

11 Symbols of progress

12 Unite

13 Relax

18 Work at a trade

21 Hotel resort

24 Resounded

26 Denison

27 Symbol of plenty

28 — long, — vta brevita

30 Beetles

32 White poplar

33 Foreboding

34 Antlers

35 Pipe part

37 Appeared to be

40 Bench

42 Flightless bird

45 Science of verification

48 Goat antelope

60 Yarn used in lanywork

62 Successful

65 Past or future

66 Begon

67 Cystody

58 Naval VIPs

60 Country

61 Stravinsky or

62 Space agency

63 Increased

65 Acquired

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

SLIGHT PAIRED ROVE
TARA AROMA ROVE
ATACROSS PURPOSES
VEA OTIOE OPERA
IRON BLITE
AVATAR GORTRACT
BOST DLORE MAE
ATACROSS PURPOSES
FER MOIST OTIE
TROWBONE DAINITY
EDGAR DOWMOOT
CROSSWORDS WITH
MEAL TONAL ANTE
DILLY ANGLE NEDD

Rebels, Vietnamese clash at 2 Thai border points

NONG SAMET, Thailand (Agencies) — Kampuchean guerrillas clashed with Vietnamese troops at two border points Monday as reinforced non-Communist forces braced for a Vietnamese assault on their last surviving camp, Thai military sources said.

They said at least nine guerrillas of the Kampuchean People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) were wounded when a new battle erupted at their former base opposite the Thai village of Nong Samet.

KPNLF guerrillas, facing Vietnamese mortar and machinegun fires struggled with little apparent success in gain ground at the contested camp which fell to the Vietnamese in November in the first stage of their dry-season offensive.

The KPNLF, allied with the ousted Khmer Rouge and followers of Prince Norodom Sihanouk in an anti-Vietnamese coalition, has since recaptured part of the sprawling Nong Samet camp but has lost a string of other bases.

The non-Communist faction, led by former Kampuchean Prime Minister Son Sann, has been the major target of the two-month-old Vietnamese campaign against guerrillas based on the border.

The KPNLF beefed up the defenses of its last surviving camp, opposite the Thai village of Sanlor Cha-Ngan 30 kilometres north of

Nong Samet, sending four extra truckloads of guerrillas there. Thai and Kampuchean sources said a Vietnamese assault was imminent on the camp whose 8,500 civilians were evacuated to a makeshift settlement site inside Thailand 10 days ago.

The Sanlor Cha-Ngan Camp is just north of Ampil, the KPNLF command headquarters seized by Vietnamese infantry last week. Thai and Vietnamese forces there now confront each other across a narrow strip of unoccupied territory.

Reporters were banned from part of the tense border area as Thai troops went on full alert for any incidents violating Thai sovereignty.

Khmer Rouge sources, meanwhile, said their guerrillas ambushed Vietnamese troops Monday at the small village of Nam Sap about 12 kilometres inside Kampuchea.

The Khmer Rouge, who fight separately from non-Communist forces in the coalition, did not give any details of casualties.

They said their action provoked the Vietnamese into shelling a

border area south of the Kampuchean town of Poipet where about 50 Vietnamese mortar and artillery shells landed near the frontier.

Meanwhile Hun Sen, foreign minister of the Kampuchean government in Phnom Penh, was unanimously elected premier by the eighth National Assembly Monday, the official Kampuchean News Agency SPK reported.

Hun Sen, who is in his mid-30s, had been serving as acting premier since Chan Si died of illness in late December. He apparently retains his post as foreign minister.

Like several senior officials of the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh, Hun Sen defected from the ranks of the Khmer Rouge during its 1975-78 reign in Kampuchea. He has served as foreign minister since Vietnam installed the new government, headed by President Heng Samrin, in early 1979 after invading Kampuchea and driving the Khmer Rouge into the countryside.

The Phnom Penh government is supported by the Soviet Union and other Eastern Bloc countries. With the aid of Vietnamese troops, it is trying to suppress the Kampuchean resistance guerrilla force based along the Thai Kampuchean border.

The United Nations recognises a coalition of three guerrilla movements as Kampuchea's legitimate government.



CAR BOMB PROTEST: The gutted remains of a company car belonging to a Portuguese importer of Japanese goods rests atop another car in which was also planted with a bomb Monday outside Lisbon. Another company car was destroyed near the Portuguese capital by a similar bomb while police defused two more under businessmen's cars in the rioting city of Setubal (AP Wirephoto)

Sri Lanka says patrol boat issue will soon be resolved

COLOMBO (R) — India has told Colombo's envoy in New Delhi that a dispute over a captured Sri Lankan naval patrol boat will be resolved soon, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

India seized the patrol craft and its seven-member crew last Friday, charging that it opened fire on fishing boats inside Indian waters.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in New Delhi, Bernard Tilakaratna, met Indian Foreign Secretary Mahabharat Rastogi Monday and demanded the immediate return of the craft and crew.

It said Mr. Tilakaratna "emphasised that the Indian government has no jurisdiction over the patrol craft since it belongs to the government of Sri Lanka."

Mr. Rastogi told Mr. Tilakaratna that "the matter would be resolved speedily," the statement said.

Gandhi sheds 2 portfolios

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi handed temporary charge of two key portfolios Monday to senior cabinet colleagues in a minor reshuffle on the eve of the first session of India's new parliament.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said Mr. Gandhi had allotted the commerce and supply portfolio to Finance Minister V.P. Singh and the industry and company affairs portfolio to Chemicals and Fertiliser Minister Veerendra Patil.

Mr. Gandhi personally took charge of 14 ministries two weeks ago when his 39-member council of ministers took office after the ruling Congress (I) Party won an unprecedented 401 of the 508 seats at stake in the Lok Sabha, parliament's lower house.

The new Lok Sabha meets for its first session Tuesday after last month's national election.

Mr. Gandhi also took over the planning portfolio from the temporary charge of Defence Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao without assigning it to any senior minister.

The Planning Ministry is now putting the finishing touches to India's seventh five-year plan, the country's economic blueprint, which is due to start from April 1 this year.

Nine days ago Mr. Gandhi appointed a new planning commission, the country's top economic policy making body, expanding its membership from five to eight and adding technocrats and trade and financial experts.

Official sources said Mr. Gandhi's latest move reflected his desire to have practised hands at the

controls of the crucial Commerce and Industry Ministries.

V.P. Singh held the commerce portfolio before he was despatched last year to the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, the country's most populous region, to head the Congress unit there ahead of the polls.

Mr. Patil was in charge of the labour portfolio in the previous government.

President Zail Singh Monday swore in Mr. Jagjivan Ram, the new parliament's oldest member, as temporary speaker.

Mr. Ram, 76, who has been in parliament for 33 years, was a senior colleague of Mr. Gandhi's mother and predecessor, Indira Gandhi, before he broke away from her in 1977. He now heads his own party.

He will administer oaths of office to the new parliament Tuesday and hold office until a new speaker, likely to be from Congress (I), is elected.

4 crushed to death

Meanwhile, four people were crushed to death and seven were injured when a huge crowd tried to gather at a temple in south India to celebrate a Hindu holy festival, the Press Trust of India said.

The news agency said about a million people went to the hill-top shrine of Sabarimala in Kerala state to mark Makara Sankranti, a Hindu spring festival. PTI said three of those killed were crushed just a few metres from the sacred 18 steps which lead up to the shrine.

400 die or hurt in Ethiopian train crash

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Four hundred passengers were feared killed or injured when a crowded train plunged into a deep ravine Sunday night on a railway line linking Ethiopia and Djibouti, travellers returning from the region said Monday.

There was no immediate official comment on the travellers' reports but informed sources said government officials were on their way to the scene of the crash.

The accident occurred near Awash, some 250 kilometres east of Addis Ababa, the travellers said.

The cause of the crash was not immediately known. The Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway Line, a vital link between the Ethiopian capital and the Red Sea, is run jointly by the two governments.

As well as imports and exports, the train regularly carries hundreds of traders who buy fresh fruit in western Ethiopia and sell it in Djibouti.

U.S. official urges aspirin warnings

WASHINGTON — Margaret M. Heckler, secretary of health and human services, asked aspirin manufacturers Wednesday to warn consumers that using aspirin under certain conditions may be associated with the development of Reye's Syndrome, a potentially fatal ailment. She asked manufacturers to voluntarily put warning labels on their products.

The move was in reaction to a study by the Centers for Disease Control that indicated aspirin given to children suffering from chicken pox or flu increases the risk they will come down with the syndrome. Symptoms of the ailment include vomiting, fever, convulsions and coma, with death resulting in roughly a quarter of the cases.

Mrs. Heckler's efforts were criticised as too late and too weak by Dr. Sidney M. Wolfe, the head of the consumer advocate Ralph Nader's Health Research Group. Dr. Wolfe, who had made the study results public, called for steps to require the labeling, rather than making it voluntary — New York Times.

COLUMN

Village plans fiesta for would-be brides

PLAN, Spain (R) — A tiny mountain village plans to hold a fiesta in the spring for hundreds of women who answered an advertisement for wives placed in a local newspaper by its unmarried men, local officials said. The officials said the council of the Pyrenean village of Plan agreed at a special meeting to ask provincial authorities for funds to pay for the event, to mark the women's arrival. They said they needed about one million pesetas (\$5,700). More than 500 women in Spain and abroad replied to the ad. The officials said they had to stop accepting telephone applications and were asking prospective wives to write.

Charles' aide quit over Diana, newspapers say

LONDON (R) — Edward Adeane, who resigned last week as top aide to Prince Charles, Britain's future king, quit over rift with Princess Diana, two newspapers reported. "It was so awful I can't bear to talk about it," Adeane was quoted by the News of the World newspaper as telling friends. The Sunday Mirror said Adeane, 45, became irritated and frustrated by Diana's "too modern" behaviour while the 23-year-old Princess found him "too bossy and Victorian." He would go through three times a week to discuss her schedule and find her listening to pop music and playing with her two young children, the paper said. "Edward felt this wasn't an atmosphere most conducive to discussing work," it quoted a palace source as saying. The palace has denied any rift between Diana and Adeane.

Asian shopkeeper murdered in London

LONDON (AP) — Scotland Yard said Sunday it was hunting "cold blooded and ruthless" killers who murdered an Asian shopkeeper for a few pounds. Two men raided a grocery store, owned by Ravji Syant, 45, in west London's Kensal Rise district and shot him three times. He died on the spot of stomach and chest wounds in front of one of his four daughters, Bahama, 19. Detective Chief Superintendent Brian King, leading the investigation, told reporters: "This crime was completely unnecessary. It was ruthless and vicious. The deceased in no way offered threats of violence to the robbers. He merely stood his ground and refused to hand over money." The store manager, Govind Meghani, 44, was hit by what the police described as a panic shot. A bullet ricocheted off a display cabinet and struck him to the chest.

City to try new plan to control birds

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Officials unsatisfied with birth control drugs in the fight to reduce the city's pigeon population said Sunday they plan to try fire with fire — or in this case birds with birds. Gaetano Zorzetto, city environment commissioner, told reporters that while pigeons delight millions of tourists every year, the birds' feces cause tremendous damage to the city's historic buildings and monuments. In an effort to reduce the pigeon population, city officials began several months ago putting birth control drugs in corn that is fed to the birds every day. But that isn't working fast enough so the city council has decided to import dozens of Jackdaws, Mr. Zorzetto said. Jackdaws, also known as Corvus Monedula, are European black birds similar to crows but smaller. Jackdaws eat pigeon eggs, Mr. Zorzetto said.

Moscovites take sub-zero plunge

MOSCOW (R) — "Keep jumping in or the water will freeze over," joked an attendant as some hardy swimmers paused before plunging into a pool made in a frozen lake in Moscow's Timiryazeva Park. The waders, people who shrug off Moscow's biting cold to swim in winter, were staging their annual gala for the city's 55 Walrus Clubs, watched by the usual large crowd. With the thermometer touching minus 10 degrees centigrade (14 Fahrenheit), few of the scantily-clad swimmers needed the advice not to hang about. They dived headlong into a small pool cut in the ice of the frozen lake. The water offered little respite from the cold.

Blasts rock northern Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — A series of bomb explosions in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna district Monday damaged some roads and small bridges, a government spokesman said. He said security forces believed a separatist guerrilla group called the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was responsible for the explosions at Jaffna and Point Pedro. No casualties were reported.

The LTTE is the strongest of the Tamil groups fighting for a separate state in the north for the island's minority Tamil population.

A security alert went into effect

throughout Sri Lanka Sunday after reports that guerrillas were planning to declare "Eelam" or a separate Tamil state in the north, Monday.

Sri Lankan Tamils celebrated a festival Monday heralding the New Year.

The government said last week a declaration by guerrillas of a separate state on Jan. 14 had been postponed until April. But officials said security forces were manning strategic points particularly in the troubled north.

The government spokesman said Monday's explosions might have been retaliation for the killing of the local LTTE leader and the arrest of 44 comrades by security forces last week.

Residents of Jaffna town said people visited Hindu temples to perform religious observances but the New Year celebrations were low key.

The LTTE, in leaflets distributed in the north over the weekend, claimed responsibility for five recent landmine attacks on army convoys.

The leaflets said: "Once we drive out the majority Sinhalese security forces from the north, we will hoist the Eelam flag."

It said Mr. Tilakaratna "emphasised that the Indian government has no jurisdiction over the patrol craft since it belongs to the government of Sri Lanka."

Mr. Rastogi told Mr. Tilakaratna that "the matter would be resolved speedily," the statement said.

Death toll in Bangladesh train fire rises to 30

DHAKA (R) — At least 30 people are now known to have been killed in a fire which destroyed a Bangladesh train Sunday and five railmen have been suspended for alleged lapses connected with the tragedy, a senior railway official said Monday.

But the official, Moshaque Ahmad Chowdhury, joint secretary at the Railway Ministry, told Reuters that local newspaper reports putting the death toll in the fire at possibly more than 300 were untrue.

He said the total number of passengers in the three burnt coaches was less than 300.

However, people were still searched for relatives in the wreckage Monday and there were fears that some bodies may have been reduced to ashes by the flames.

The carriages caught fire while the train was en route from Poradaha to Bheramara in northern Bangladesh. Preliminary reports said the fire may have been caused by an electrical short circuit.

Salvadorean rights group condemns use of gunship

SAN SALVADOR (R) — A Roman Catholic agency that monitors human rights violations in El Salvador's civil war has criticised the acquisition by government forces of a sophisticated C-47 gunship plane supplied by the United States.

The legal aid office Tutela Legal said the move was an escalation of the five-year-old civil war and a sign that the government desired a military solution.

"This past week has seen the disturbing escalation of the technological level of the war with the use of the Salvadoran army's deployment of the C-47 aircraft," it said in a statement.

"Its deployment is an indication of a willingness to pursue a military solution to our country's conflict instead of the rational path of dialogue and humanisation of the war as the way to solve it."

The C-47 gunship, a converted twin-prop DC3 mounted with three 50mm machine-guns that can fire 2,000 rounds a minute, was used against guerrillas for the first time last week.

Guerrilla Radio Venceremos said Saturday that the gunship was useless in stopping guerrillas.

Military experts believe the plane will be effective against large-scale rebel attacks and concentrations.

Human rights groups said they feared its indiscriminate use would result in increased civilian casualties.

The Catholic church has been the main supporter of human rights and a negotiated political settlement in the civil war. It mediated in two rounds of talks last year between the rebels and the U.S.-backed Salvadoran government.

Hostages to find home comforts at UNITA bush headquarters

JAMBA, Angola (R) — Foreign hostages now on a long march southwards through Angola to a guerrilla headquarters can expect a brief but comfortable stay in this purpose-built town of thatched huts, deep in the bush.

Guerrilla leader Jonas Savimbi told a small group of visiting foreign journalists on Friday that his right-wing UNITA movement will free 22 people they captured two weeks ago as soon as they reach Jamba.

But he was vague as to how far they had marched since leaving Kufuno, a diamond mining town near the northern border where they were captured. Journalists flown in to a grassy airstrip 65 kilometres away can only guess at the precise location of Jamba.

Residents say the town, a scattered collection of thatched huts designed to be hard to detect from the air, provides permanent homes for about 11,000 mostly civilian workers of Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

Visitors sleep in comfort between freshly-laundered sheets, in spacious huts each with its own shower. Guerrillas awaken guests with Angolan-grown coffee in the morning and bring bowls of warm water to wash in.

Cold beer, soft drinks and snacks of barbecued meat are produced at regular intervals, and visitors, who have recently included three members of the European Parliament, feed well on simple but freshly cooked meals. The entrance to Jamba, after a

long truck ride from the airstrip along rough sand tracks cut through deserted bush, is marked by the sudden appearance of a European-style sign announcing the unlikely presence of a hospital, and urging motorists not to sound their horns.

Another road sign indicates that an apparent confusion of sand tracks is, in fact, a roundabout governed by standard traffic priority rules.

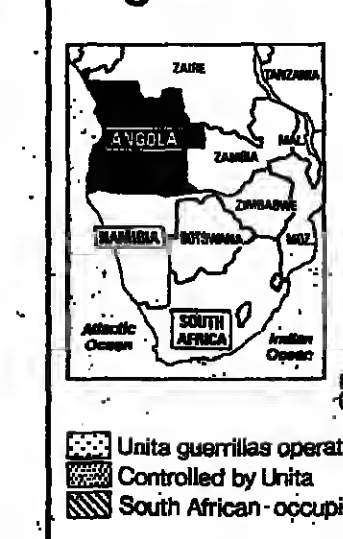
Residents say Jamba houses workshops for repairing military equipment and small factories producing uniforms and basic domestic necessities, with raw materials imported from friendly nations which UNITA workers decline to name.

Essential goods, including food grown mainly at local cooperative farms, are distributed with no money changing hands, as Jamba has no currency. Diesel generators supply the huts with electricity, but Jamba has no telephone or tele links with the outside world. Officers carry walkie-talkie radios.

Residents say the hospital has facilities for major surgery, as well as catering for civilian needs. They are particularly proud of the maternity ward. Hospital workers include a number of Europeans, notably French and Portuguese.

Jamba was built in the late 1970s as a base for UNITA's campaign in the civil war which has been impoverishing Angola, potentially rich in oil, diamonds and other raw materials, since the country became independent

Who controls Angola?



from Portugal in 1975.

Many of Jamba's bamboo huts are built so that the roof is barely above ground level and most of each hut is in fact an underground dug-out, a precaution against air raids.

Residents vehemently deny reports that, despite efforts to maintain secrecy, Jamba was attacked from the air last month by troops of the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) government.

Mr. Savimbi, evidently in robust health despite rumours that he had been badly injured in the re-

ported raid, was warmly applauded at a rally on Friday by an estimated 2,000 supporters, including a large contingent of woodland guerrillas.

Reporters were unable to tour enough of the town to discover whether any of it appeared to have been attacked.

Mr. Savimbi later laughed off reports of an attack and claimed to have extended his guerrilla campaign successfully into 15 of the vast country's 16 provinces.

"We are operating now in Luanda" (the Angolan capital), he told journalists.

Emphasising his willingness to negotiate with the MPLA, he protested at UNITA's exclusion from regional peace talks.

The Angolan government hopes that the talks will persuade South Africa to cut off the support which it says Pretoria is giving Mr. Savimbi.

Mr. Savimbi, in reply to Reuters questions, said: "We have friends in South Africa who will not accept any settlement which will cripple UNITA."

But he added: "Western tongues are talking South Africa to keep UNITA at a low profile."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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SLAMMED FROM BEHIND

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for those hands we consider to be our favorites. That makes for quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column.

NORTH
♦ A8
♦ A1043
♦ 93
♦ Q10987

WEST EAST
♦ 9543 ♦ 72
♦ J865 ♦ KQ972
♦ 10742 ♦ AQJ865
♦ A ♦ Void

SOUTH
♦ KQJ106
♦ Void
♦ K
♦ KJ65432

The bidding:
East South West North
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠
4 ♠ 5 ♠ 4 ♠ 5 ♠
5 ♠ 5 ♠ 4 ♠ 6 ♠
Dble Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Five of ♠

In the finals of the 1947 Spingold Team Championship, the Goren team trailed Schekken by 2,460 points with only 14 boards to play. (In those days, team matches were scored by total points.) The pundits had already conceded the match to the powerful Schekken squad, but our group had other

ideas. We whittled away at their lead, and it grew steadily smaller. This deal was one of the last of the match.

Sitting South was "The Baron" — Waldemar von Zedtwitz. He and his partner, Lee Hazen, were not prepared to sell out to the opposition, and Waldy bought the hand at six clubs doubled.

West made the unfortunate choice of a heart as his opening lead. Declarer took dummy's ace and got rid of his diamond loser. Since his only loser was the ace of trumps, the slam made.

It is easy to argue that, in the light of the bidding, West should have chosen a diamond lead, but we feel that is hindsight. However, West should certainly have led the ace of trumps. That would have given him a look at the dummy, and his lead to trick two would have been marked.

In the other room the Schekken team also reached a club slam, and Heleo Snel also led a heart. However, the opponents were in seven clubs, so Helen probably felt she had something in reserve.

Our team gained 1,190 points on the deal, and that proved to be just enough. We won the match by 40 points. But we would have hated to be in Heleo's shoes had we lost by 140 points, for in that case her failure to beat the slam two tricks would have cost us the match.